

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Is there a limit on the number of pets a person or household can have in Prince George's County?

Yes, a person or household may have up to four domestic animals in the residence without obtaining a hobby permit. A hobby permit must be obtained if person/household harbors or keeps five or more animals (up to ten) that are four months of age or older and larger than a guinea pig. The hobby permit does not apply to commercial establishments such as animal hospitals, animal holding facilities, grooming establishments, etc. It also does not apply to farm animals that are housed in an appropriately zoned area of Prince George's County. A hobby permit costs \$5, and once the application and fee have been submitted to the Animal Management Division, a scheduled inspection will be conducted in the area of your home where the animals are maintained.

2. Am I required to obtain a license for each pet in my household?

Every dog, cat and ferret over the age of four months maintained in Prince George's County for thirty days or more must have a County license. A license will not be granted until the owner provides proof that the animal is current on its rabies vaccination, which is required by law.

3. Are Pit Bulls allowed in Prince George's County?

As of February 3, 1997, in compliance with the Prince George's County Animal Control Ordinance, Section 3-185.01 it is illegal to own or harbor a non-registered Pit Bull in Prince George's County.

4. How do you know if the dog is a Pit Bull or just a mixed Pit Bull and how is that determined?

It has been determined that a dog, whether mixed or otherwise, which exhibits the physical characteristics of a Pit Bull more than any other breed will fall under the Pit Bull Law. Pit Bulls are also defined as:

- a. Staffordshire Bull Terriers
- b. American Pit Bull Terriers; and
- c. American Staffordshire Terriers.

5. How can I get my Pit Bull registered to become legal?

The dog cannot be considered legal unless it was born prior to February 3, 1997, registered with the Animal Management Division prior to February 3, 1997 had continued annual registration since that time.

6. Do you allow persons outside of Prince George's County or the State of Maryland to adopt animals?

Yes, our adoptions are not only open to County residents, but also to citizens from outside of the County and State. AMD has a good working relationship with all the local jurisdictions and we encourage citizens to seek out adoptable

animals at their local shelters or animal control facilities, as well as humane societies.

7. How does Animal Management Group get all their animals?

A large percentage of the animals are picked up by our Animal Control Officers (ACOs) on the street as strays, while others are brought into AMD by a citizen who found them running loose. Some have been removed from their owner's or custodian's custody pending some legal action by AMD. Animals are also given up by their owners or custodians who no longer want the animal for a variety of different reasons.

8. Are the animals from your facility already house broken?

Most animals may be house broken; however, in a kennel environment around strange people and animals, it is very likely that the new animal you adopt is not totally house broken. Animals learn quickly and want to please you; therefore, once you get your new companion animal home it may take a few days and the consistency of everyone in the household for your new buddy to become house broken.

9. Do you have any previous history on animal(s) that are up for adoption?

In some cases we are knowledgeable about the animal's history, but we are currently working toward enhancing this information gathering so the new adopters, rescue groups and foster homes are fully apprised of the animal's previous history including the medical issues. This will help them assess their new companion animal better.

10. Does the adopted animal have to be spayed or neutered? Why should we spay/neuter the animal?

Yes, all animals being adopted must be spayed or neutered. There is a nationwide overpopulation of animals and, as a result, many animal shelters, animal control agencies and humane societies are forced to humanely euthanize healthy animals not fortunate to be placed in a new "Forever Home". Animals not spayed or neutered run a higher chance of tumors and/or cancer as they get older. Female dogs allowed to have a litter of pups (whether it is the first litter or several litters later) can get a condition called Pyometra. Pyometra is an infection of the uterus which, if not caught in time, can result in the animal's death. Female dogs not spayed may also have problems with mammary glands. Similarly, male dogs are susceptible to testicular tumors and prostate problems associated with not being neutered.

As many as one hundred or more puppies or kittens can be born to a mother dog or cat from the reproduction age until death. This puts a tremendous burden on a society that cannot adequately support them or monitor them to verify that they are placed in loving "Forever Homes" and provided with proper care until they each reach fourteen to twenty years of age.