

BARKING DOGS

Many pet owners are not aware that their pet is causing a disturbance when they are not home. Ruston Animal Control focuses on informing pet owners about their pet's behavior, and educating them on the steps they can take to help change that behavior.

Noise complaints are tracked by address. If noise complaints become excessive at an address, the pet owner or homeowner can face a misdemeanor citation.



AGGRESSIVE ANIMALS

Ruston Animal Control Officers and Police Officers will respond to aggressive animal complaints. Aggressive animals could display some of the following specific behaviors:

- ▶ Fierce bark and growl indicating attack
- ▶ Baring teeth, lifted tail, raised ears and hair on back
- ▶ Lunging posture

ADOPTION

Ruston Animal Control sponsors an Animal Adoption Program to match unwanted animals to appropriate homes and responsible pet owners. Persons wishing to adopt an animal can visit the Animal Control kennels and choose from a wide variety of dogs and cats. The kennels are open for pet adoption Monday through Friday from 12 pm - 5 pm.



**City of Ruston
Animal Control
1901 McDonald Avenue
Ruston, LA 71270
(318) 251-8685
www.ruston.org/animalcontrol**

Emergencies:

Monday-Friday 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. - Public Works	318-242-7703
After Hours and Holidays - Ruston Police Department	318-255-4141
Outside City of Ruston - Lincoln Parish Sheriff's Office	318-251-5111

ANIMAL CONTROL



www.ruston.org

Ruston Animal Control is designed to build positive partnerships with pet owners throughout the community.

By working together, we can:

- ✓ Reduce the number of homeless pets by spaying and neutering
- ✓ Reduce the loose pet population by using leashes and fences
- ✓ Reduce nuisances to neighbors by being mindful of animal noise and behavior



Ruston Animal Control has oversight of certain animal related issues in the city. Animal Control Officers are on duty seven days a week. They respond to:

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Aggressive Animals | Injured Animals |
| Animal Bites | Dangerous Animals |
| Animal Cruelty | Barking Dogs |
| Nuisance Animals | Unattended Animals |

The mission of Ruston Animal Control is to provide professional and timely response to animal-related calls.

ARE YOU A RESPONSIBLE PET OWNER?

With your help, we can increase the quality of life and health of Ruston's pet population. Ruston Animal Control wants to partner with you to promote proper care for pets.

- | | |
|----------------|----------|
| Vacinate | Shelter |
| Proper Diet | Exercise |
| Spay or Neuter | |

Remember that like you, your pet needs a proper diet and exercise. Be sure to walk your dog frequently, obey leash laws, and make sure that your yard is securely fenced so your dog will not run loose, potentially scaring or harming neighborhood children, residents or other pets.

IF YOU ENCOUNTER A DANGEROUS DOG:

1. Do not run.
2. Do not show fear.
3. Do not stare into the dog's eyes, which the dog considers a challenge.
4. Do not turn your back.
5. Keep your hands in. Do not extend your arms.
6. Get something between you and the dog -- a tree, car, etc.
7. Tell the dog to go home. Use authority.
8. When the dog backs off, take steps backward until you are out of danger.
9. If the dog does attack, get in the fetal position and protect the back of your neck. Try not to scream.

WHEN AN ANIMAL BITES:

1. Call Animal Control at (318) 251-8685, or Ruston Police Department at (318) 255-4141.
2. Seek medical attention for all bites.
3. Identify the animal

- ✓ Breed
- ✓ Color
- ✓ Markings
- ✓ Location last seen
- ✓ Size

4. If possible, contain the animal safely, but do not try to contain a dangerous dog.
5. Animal must be quarantined for a minimum of 10 days at the owner's expense.

RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERS

Being a responsible pet owner is much more than just providing water, food and shelter for your pet.

- ✓ Spay or neuter your pets. There are too many homeless animals. Don't add to the problem.
- ✓ Provide veterinary care for your pet. Keep their vaccinations up to date and make sure they have annual checkups.
- ✓ Don't let your pet run loose. Dogs should be on leashes or in a securely fenced area.
- ✓ Keep an ID tag on your pet, cats included.
- ✓ Obedience train and socialize your animal.
- ✓ Did you know? An outdoor cat's average lifespan is 3 years, an indoor cat's average lifespan is 14 years.
- ✓ Don't make your dog a "backyard dog". Dogs thrive on companionship.
- ✓ Never leave your pet in the car on a warm day or in the yard without shade and water. Risking your pet's life is against the law.
- ✓ Be considerate to your pets during holidays like Fourth of July and Halloween when loud noise and crowds can scare your pets. Secure pets indoors to protect them.
- ✓ Take special care of your pet during their senior years remembering that they may need extra care and attention as they age.



Owning a pet is a lifetime commitment. Be kind to your pet and show him love. Remember you are his world.