

# OKC Animal Welfare

## City of Oklahoma City Animal Welfare

2811 SE 29th Street  
Oklahoma City, OK 73129

405-297-3100 (shelter)  
405-297-3100 (animal needs)

[www.okc.gov/animalwelfare](http://www.okc.gov/animalwelfare)  
[animalwelfare@okc.gov](mailto:animalwelfare@okc.gov)



*The Link Between  
Animal Cruelty  
& Family Violence*



*Dear Human Services Partner,*

There is a strong connection or link between animal abuse and other forms of family violence. Animal Abuse rarely occurs in a vacuum; it's usually the tip of the iceberg and indicates or predicts other family issues. The Link is shown in forms of child abuse, domestic violence, elder abuse, satanic issues, a crime.

It's important that all forms of social service and law enforcement organizations work together to provide protection and prevention towards all victims of abuse. Information in this booklet will help you be aware of the issue and will help you understand why it's important to report suspected cases, and to educate on this topic. We have a responsibility to not look the other way with abuse cases because untreated abuse can escalate from animals to people quickly. To report animal abuse in Oklahoma City, please call 405-297-3100.

*Sincerely,*

*Oklahoma City Animal Welfare*



## ***Signs Suggestive of Animal Neglect, Abuse or Cruelty***

***Lack of food or water:***

Animal is underweight or has no water available.

***Lack of shelter:***

Animal is contained in an area exposed to inclement weather.

***Severe matting or filth:***

Ungroomed, stinky, greasy or filthy coat.

***Poor body condition:***

Underweight, open sores, hair loss, tick or flea infested.

***Lack of Veterinary care for illness or injury:***

Limping, broken limb, congested eyes & ears.

***Lack of sanitation:***

Feces and/or debris-covered living area.

***Abandonment:***

Animal left in house or yard.

***Chains:***

Or padlocks around the neck, especially if grown into the neck (includes regular collars)

***Tied or caged:***

With little room to move. Unable to stand or turn.

***Burns:***

Chemical or heat.

***Trauma:***

Shooting, stabbing, strangling, beating.

***Multiple wounds or fractures:***

In various stages of healing.

***Poisoning / Drugs:***

Lethargy, excessive thirst, bleeding or foaming

***Mutilation:***

Including ear cropping, tail docking and neutering at home.

***Evidence of fighting:***

Especially Pit Bull Terriers. Including training implements, treadmills, spring poles, etc.

***Behavior:***

Severely hand-shy, cowering, hiding, fear-biting.

## *Eight Steps to a Non-Violent Future*

1. Take animal and child abuse seriously, and report it to your local law enforcement or child welfare agency. Abuse must be stopped! People who repeatedly and intentionally hurt animals or children need incarceration, counseling, or other intervention.
2. Encourage professionals, such as judges, Animal Care & Control officers, doctors, social workers, teachers, and ministers to familiarize themselves with the link between cruelty to animals and family violence.
3. If you have children, practice positive parenting styles. To learn about such methods, consult with your local mental health center, social service agency, or the United Way.
4. Instill compassion and humane values in young people by showing that you value people, animals and the environment.
5. Question the glorification of violence in sports, the media, and entertainment. Nonviolent problem-solving skills, compassion, and self-control must be valued by society to be valued by children.
6. If animal or child abuse was part of your personal history, you may need to seek professional counseling to fully understand the effect these acts have had on you and your family. Often the cycle of violence can be broken by a desire to stop the abuse.
7. Use your political voice and vote on issues relevant to education, social service delivery, and allocation of funds toward improving the quality of life for people and animals in your community and country.
8. Support organizations that protect animals and children from abuse by volunteering or financially contributing.

**City of Oklahoma City Animal Welfare Division**

*Oklahoma City Animal Welfare is pleased to be a member of:*



**OKLAHOMA LINK COALITION**

The Oklahoma Link Coalition promotes collaboration, cooperation, public awareness, and education to end violence against people and animals by recognizing the link between human and animal abuse.

[www.facebook.com/oklahomalinkcoalition](http://www.facebook.com/oklahomalinkcoalition)



There is a link between animal cruelty and family violence. We are raising public awareness, training professionals, and working to reduce ALL forms of family and community violence.

[www.nationallinkcoalition.org](http://www.nationallinkcoalition.org)

**City of Oklahoma City Animal Welfare Division**

## *Oklahoma City Animal Welfare Services*

The Animal Welfare Division is responsible for promoting public health and safety, for temporarily sheltering and providing humane disposition of unwanted or lost animals, and for promoting animal welfare so that pet ownership is a pleasure for owners without becoming a burden to the community.

Our services include:

**Shelter Services:** The Animal Shelter Program provides temporary care, animal adoptions, reclaim services and animal transfers to Pet Placement Partners so citizens can have affordable pet adoption opportunities and more animal's lives can be saved.

**Field Services:** Including stray, aggressive and injured animals and animal cruelty investigations.

**Adoption Program:** Adoptions are facilitated both at the OKC Animal Shelter as well as several community outreaches that are held throughout the month at various locations locally.

**Food Bank:** This program, free to OKC residents, can provide food up to six times per year to residents in need. Conditions apply.

**Spay/Neuter Services:** This program, also free to OKC residents, provides free sterilization services. There are no income requirements and pets are sterilized on a first-come, first-served basis.

**Volunteer Program:** Volunteers are needed to walk dogs, play with cats, staff adoption events and help with shelter cleaning and activities. No experience is necessary. Volunteers must be at least 18 years old and pass a background check.

**Community Cats:** This program saves the lives of impounded stray cats by sterilizing, vaccinating, ear tipping and returning them to their original neighborhood homes.

## *Teaching About Respect & Kindness....*

Learning	Designing programs that offer the maximum benefits of learning. Child development and learning styles should be taken into consideration.
Adults & Children	Programs that are designed for children and adults to learn together and separately.
Kindness	Learning to be kind through positive experiences with animals.
Empathy	Helping people by being sympathetic towards the needs and feelings of other living creatures.
Respect	Helping people to see the worth of animals and the environment, thereby acting with care rather than violence or neglect.
Responsibility	Showing the need to take responsibility for the animals that are in our homes and community. Working to protect the planet we share with other animals and plant life.
Animals	Accurate information in order to help the learner understand animals and their needs.
Humans	Programs that show the connection between humans and animals, how humans depend on animals and how animals depend on humans.
Compassion	Helping us know and feel our responsibilities towards animals.
Critical Thinking	Giving the tools so people can understand the consequences of their actions
Responsible Pet Ownership	Understanding how to provide for the animals that we bring into our home as companions. Understanding which animals make appropriate pets and which do not.

## ***Motivations For Cruel & Extremely Aggressive Behaviors to Animals by Humans***

- ***To express human aggressions through an animal***

Often humans will express their own violent aggressive behaviors through the violent behaviors of an animal, e.g., pit bull fighting.

- ***Displacement of hostility from a person to an animal***

Displaced aggression against authority figures, e.g., a child who is being physically or mentally abused will often exhibit their hurt by abusing a family pet or other animal.

- ***To enhance aggressiveness***

To improve one's aggressive skills. Often animal abuse is a precursor to human abuse and violence or a way a person can relive a past experience of violence to a human.

- ***To retaliate against another person***

To exhibit power over another person by hurting something they care about.

- ***To shock people for amusement***

To impress others with a capacity for violence.

- ***To retaliate against an animal***

Extreme punishment or revenge for a presumed wrong on the part of the animal.

- ***To control an animal***

To control or shape an animal's behavior or eliminate certain naturally occurring behaviors in animals.

- ***To satisfy a prejudice against a species or breed***

## ***Care is More Than Kindness: It's the Law in OKC***

### **Cruelty**

It is illegal to beat, torment, hurt or otherwise harm any animal in any manner. People who beat their animals or otherwise cause an animal to suffer pain or discomfort can be charged with a crime. If you see such a crime being committed, please call OKC Animal Welfare Dispatch at 297-3100 immediately.

### **Abandonment**

It is cruel as well as illegal to deliberately abandon an animal. Domestic animals cannot fend for themselves; they frequently fall victim to cars, the elements and predators. Before you abandon or give away your pet, bring it to the animal shelter. We also have programs that may help your situation and result in you keeping your pet.

### **Medical Care**

You must provide your animal with proper medical care. This means that if your pet is injured, is very sick, or becomes infested with parasites, you are responsible for getting adequate veterinary attention so that it remains in good health and does not suffer. There are local programs that can help with low cost veterinary care.

### **Spay or Neuter Your Pets**

It is extremely important that all pet animals be spayed or neutered to ensure that they will not bring more unwanted and homeless animals into the world. There is a tremendous excess of companion animals that will never be fortunate enough to live out their lives in responsible and loving homes. Please don't let your pet add to this tragic situation. Have it spayed or neutered as soon as possible. Additional benefits of sterilizing your pet include the elimination of potential health and temperament problems, and a greatly reduced license fee. For more information on a free spay/neuter program for OKC residents, please visit [www.okc.gov/animalwelfare](http://www.okc.gov/animalwelfare).

### **Picking up after Your Dog**

You are required by OKC law to pick up after your dog and deposit it in an appropriate trash receptacle. Failure to do so can result in a fine.

### **Number of Animals**

The ordinance in OKC reads that no one person can house or harbor more than four dogs and four cats over the age of 6 months. To house more animals you will need to apply for a commercial kennel permit through the OKC Permit department.

## *Care is More Than Kindness: It's the Law in OKC*

### **Vaccinations are Mandatory**

Law requires that your dog of four months or older have a current rabies vaccination. It's highly recommended that you visit your local veterinarian for a yearly check-up.

### **Responsible Pet Guardianship**

You are responsible if your pet bites or injures someone. This means that you could be held financially liable. Take the time to learn more about responsible pet guardianship, how to prevent behavior problems and reduce the risk that your pet will bite.

### **Food and Water**

Animals must be provided with the basic needs of life, including food, water and shelter. All animals must receive food on a daily basis. This food must be free from contamination, and must be offered in a quantity and quality sufficient to maintain the animal's good health. Animals must also have access to clean, drinkable water. Water should always be provided in a container that cannot be tipped over or spilled. Animals will not drink warm water, so be sure to situate the container where it will not be heated by the sun during the day.

### **Chaining Pets**

While it is not against the law to chain or tie an animal, we do not recommend that you tie an animal out for longer than three hours. A dog that is chained or tied is at the mercy of the elements; it may become entangled in the chain itself, unable to move or reach its source of water. Death can occur quickly in the heat. The dog's access to food, water, shade and shelter may easily become restricted or eliminated because of a chain or tie-out. Besides being dangerous, tie-outs and chains can cause frustration and aggressiveness, increasing the possibility of dog bites. The safest alternative to a chain or tie-out is a securely fenced yard. "Escape artists" may be safely confined in covered kennel runs.

### **Barking Dogs**

You are responsible for controlling the excessive barking of your dog. If it barks too much, your neighbor can file a complaint and you can be cited for a noise violation.

## *Cruelty to animals takes on numerous forms in the context of family violence*

- Parents kill a pet to punish the child.
- Parents threaten to kill a child's pet to secure acquiescence or silence for sexual abuse.
- Children kill pets to rehearse their own suicide.
- Children kill animals before a dominant adult can do so.
- Children torture animals as gang initiation rites or to gain status from their peers.
- Batterers force partners to engage in sex with the family pet.
- Children identify with their abusers and begin to abuse animals themselves.
- Children create a fiercely loyal bond with an animal and escape to an imaginary world where the abuser cannot hurt either of them.
- Adult victims of domestic violence prolong leaving an abusive relationship due to the fear of harm to the family pet.

## ***Cruelty to Animals & Human Violence: A Compelling Connection***

### *A summary of research*

- 1966 A triad of behaviors in children proves to be a reliable predictor of future criminal activity. These are: 1) Cruelty to Animals, 2) Setting fires, 3) Bed wetting after age five. Hellman & Blackman
- 1970 The Behavioral Science Unit of the FBI investigates the psychodynamics of serial killers. They find that cruelty to animals is consistent in their history.
- 1971-1977 Children who commit animal cruelties are studied longitudinally. Animal abuse predicts and correlates with long term anti-social behaviors such as lying, stealing and bullying in males Tapia & Rigdon
- 1980 Male psychiatric patients with animal abuse in their history were more likely to have an alcoholic father, and witnessed cruelty to animals. Felthous
- 1983 In a study of 53 families in NJ, 88% of families convicted of child abuse or neglect were also convicted of abuse of a family pet. Deviney, Dickert, Lockwood
- 1985 A study found significantly higher rates of cruelty towards animals among aggressive criminals as compared with non-aggressive criminals. Animal cruelty predicted future violence. Kellart & Felthous
- 1991 A study of persons convicted of homicide found that in some cases animals were killed to relive the experience of killing humans. Hickey
- 1995 Children growing up in homes where there is domestic violence and sexual abuse are at risk for committing animal abuse. Schecter & Edelson
- 1997 In a large national sample of battered women seeking safety in shelters, 71% reported that their pets were threatened or harmed. Schecter & Edelson
- 1997 The Mass. SPCA and Northwestern University examined the criminal records of 153 animal abusers and 153 non-abusers over a 20 year period. They found that people who abused animals were five times more likely than non-abusers to commit violent crimes against people.

## ***Care is More Than Kindness: It's the Law in OKC***

### **Shelter is Essential**

Animals must have easy access to natural or artificial shelter that protects them from extreme temperatures. The shelter must also provide adequate ventilation and drainage, and must be available throughout the year. Any artificial shelter, such as a dog house, must be well-built and maintained in good repair. It must be large enough for the animal to enter, stand and lie down in a natural manner. During warmer weather, it is critically important that animals are brought inside or have shade at all times during the day. Remember, as the sun moves across the sky, shady spots often become sunny spots. The law requires that animals be kept in a clean and healthful environment, free from accumulated feces. Keeping the animal's area clean reduces odors and insects and makes for a more pleasant area for your pets, and will reduce the possibility of neighbor complaints.

### **Hot Cars are Deadly**

Children and pets die in hot cars every year. Temperatures inside your car or the back of your pick-up truck can reach 130°F to 160°F in just a few minutes, even on a pleasant day. Leaving pets inside a closed car, or even one with the windows rolled down, is dangerous, deadly and illegal. Immediately call 911 to report children or pets that are in hot cars to the police.

### **Leash is Mandatory**

The Leash Law prohibits you from allowing your dog to run at large outside your property at any time. Your dog must be kept confined to your home or property, either inside the home or within a walled or fenced yard or area on your property. When you take your dog outside of a confined area, it must be restrained, and you must have control of your dog. If your dog is on a leash, it must be safely under your control and will be less likely to be hit and killed by a car, be lost, or suffer any of the many tragedies that often befall free-roaming animals. Please remember that an officer can enter onto private property to capture a dog that has been witnessed at large or off of their owner's property.

### **Identification is Mandatory**

It is required by law in the City of Oklahoma City that your dog always wear a collar displaying a current rabies tag. In addition to the tag, it is a good idea to attach a separate tag that lists your name, current address and telephone number. You should microchip your pet with the same information.



## *Animal Cruelty Falls Under City Ordinance Title 8 in OKC*

§ 1692.7. Seizure, Destruction, or Forfeiture of Cock-fighting Equipment or Facilities

§ 1692.8. Punishment

§ 1692.9. Exemption

### **Dogfighting**

§ 1693. Definitions

§ 1694. Instigating or Encouraging Dogfight - Felony

§ 1695. Keeping Place, Equipment or Facilities for Dogfighting - Felony

§ 1696. Servicing or Facilitating Dogfight Felony

§ 1697. Owning, Possessing, Keeping or Training Dog for Fighting - Felony

§ 1698. Spectators

§ 1699. Seizure, Destruction or Forfeiture of Dog-fighting Equipment and Facilities

§ 1699.1. Punishment

§ 1699.2. Exemptions

### **City Ordinance**

§ 8-119. - Penalty for *cruelty* to animals. Any person violating any provisions of Sections 8-106 through 8-118 of this article shall upon conviction

§ 8-106. - *Cruelty* to animals prohibited. It shall be unlawful for any person to overload, overwork; torture or torment, poison, burn, beat, mutilate

ARTICLE II. - HUMANE CARE AND TREATMENT  
FOOTNOTE(S): --- ( 2 ) --- State Law reference— Animal *cruelty* and related offenses, 21 O.S. § 1680

## *Child Violence in the News*

- Kip Kinkel, 15 years old, allegedly opened fire on his classmates at his Oregon high school cafeteria. Two died and twenty two were injured. His parents were found dead the same day. Kinkel often bragged of torturing animals.
- Two young brothers, ages 7 and 8, and their 11 year old friend, beat and sexually assaulted a three year old. The two brothers had been involved with Animal cruelty.
- Mitchell Johnson and Andrew Golden, age 11, allegedly shot and killed four students and one teacher in Arkansas. It is reported that Andrew bragged of shooting dogs "all the time with a .22."
- Michael Varneal, age 14 allegedly shot and killed three Kentucky classmates. He also bragged of throwing a cat on a bonfire.
- Five Florida teenagers, members of a self-styled "vampire cult", were arrested in the bludgeoning deaths of a member's parents; media accounts include animal torture and mutilation as part of their rituals.
- Luke Woodham, age 16, allegedly shot his mother and killed two classmates and injured seven others. He wrote in his journal that he had beat, burned and tortured the family dog, Sparkle, to death; he described it as "true beauty."
- A 17 year old boy was convicted of drowning a puppy with gasoline and setting it on fire in Phoenix, Arizona.
- A 17-year-old boy was arrested on drug charges and later admitted to being a member of a satanic cult that killed cats in Ahwatukee, Arizona. The following poetry was written by him and found in his room: Outcast of Society - Running from the truth, Maybe truth kills, Causing havoc & releasing mayhem on innocents, Only way we know how to pay society back, Killing to delight, Bleeding to consume, ... to release, Now screw your goat like a good little nympho, Vampires of life, Preying upon Love, Like a shadowy wrath, For love is false reality, And, only we know the truth and the truth kills.

***"Anyone who has accustomed himself to regard the life of any living creature as worthless is in danger of arriving at the idea of worthless human lives."***

***Albert Schweitzer***

### ***Known serial killers***

- Albert Desalvo, (a.k.a. The Boston Strangler) who killed thirteen woman in 1962-1963 trapped dogs and cats in orange crates and shot arrows through the box.
- Edmund Emil Kemper III who killed eight women had a history of abusing dogs and cats.
- David Berkowitz (a.k.a. The Son of Sam) who pleaded guilty to thirteen murder and attempted murder charges shot a neighbor's dog in 1976-1977. He claimed the dog was the spiritual force that compelled him to kill.
- Brenda Spencer, a sixteen-year-old girl who went on a rifle rampage in 1979, was reported as setting the tails of dogs and cats on fire.
- James Huberty gunned down twenty one people in a restaurant in 1984. As a teenager, he shot his neighbor's dog with an air gun.
- Carrol Edward Cole murdered five woman and has said his first violent act as a child was strangling a puppy.
- Theodore Bundy was convicted of killing woman in 1989 and was linked to graves filled with animal bones found in Utah.
- Jeffrey Dahmer killed, mutilated, and cannibalized his victims. As a teenager he kept frogs and cats impaled on sticks or staked to trees. He preserved animal skeletons in a backyard shed and in his own twisted cemetery.

## ***Animal Cruelty Falls Under City Ordinance Title 8 in OKC***

### **Chapter 67 - Injuries to Animals**

#### **Animal Facilities Protection Act**

§ 1680. Short Title

§ 1680.1. Definitions

§ 1680.2. Unlawful Acts Upon Animal Facilities - Exemption

§ 1680.3. Duty of Veterinarians to Report Animal Abuse

§ 1680.4. Custody of Abused or Neglected Animals - Bond - Euthanasia

§ 1681. Poisoning Animals - Penalty

§ 1682. Instigating Fights Between Animals

§ 1683. Keeping Places For Fighting Animals

§ 1684. Wounding or Trapping Birds within Cemetery or Burying Ground

§ 1685. Acts of Cruelty to Animals

§ 1685.1. Prohibition on Use of Live Animals as Lure in Training Greyhounds

§ 1686. Disposal of Abandoned Animals

§ 1687. Repealed by Laws 1963, HB 556, c. 220, § 11

§ 1688. Carrying Animals in Cruel Manner

§ 1689. Administration of Poisonous Drugs to Animals

§ 1691. Abandoning Animals Along Streets or Highways Unlawful

§ 1692. Penalty

#### **Cockfighting**

§ 1692.1. Definitions

§ 1692.2. Instigating or Encouraging Cockfight

§ 1692.3. Keeping Place, Equipment, or Facilities for Cockfighting

§ 1692.4. Servicing or Facilitating Cockfight

§ 1692.5. Owning, Possessing, Keeping or Training Bird for Fighting

§ 1692.6. Spectators

Continued..... ***Frequently asked questions  
about stray Animals in OKC***

## **Livestock**

OKCAW rescues horses, cows, and other livestock who are lost, stray or involved in animal cruelty situations. We house them in our barn and hold them accordingly depending upon why they are in our care. Once their hold period is up, they will be placed with a livestock transfer partner or placed up for adoption.

## **Barking Dogs**

OKCAW enforces barking dog complaints from residents. It is not a violation for a dog to bark. It is only a violation if a dog barks excessively. Most pet owners do not know their dogs bark. We can provide you with basic information to share with a neighbor to assist with the barking dog. If the dog owner refused to take reasonable efforts to control the dogs barking, you can file a barking dog complaint by coming to our office at 2811 SE 29th Street. You will sign a citation and we will serve it to the dog owner. You will need to be prepared to prove your case in court.

## **Wildlife**

OKCAW will rescue injured wild animals in the field. We also take in any wildlife over the counter. When appropriate, we transfer wild animals to a local organization to rehabilitate and release. We do not address nuisance wildlife issues.

## **Pocket Pets**

OKCAW takes in all types of animals including hamsters, guinea pigs, snakes, and more. We will pick up a lost, stray, or injured pocket pet but we do not pick up owned animals. Once at the shelter, all normal holding times apply and then they are placed for adoption or transferred to a partner.

## ***Frequently asked questions about stray animals in OKC***

### **Unwanted and Stray Dogs**

Oklahoma City Animal Welfare runs lost and found as well as adoption programs for stray and unwanted dogs and cats. We also rescue dogs in police emergencies, quarantine dogs and cats that have bitten a human being, and assist with animal-related issues, including animal cruelty or abuse, in OKC. OKCAW field officers do not pick up cats unless they have bitten a human being, are injured or are involved in an animal cruelty situation; however, they can be brought to our shelter.

Once a dog or cat comes into our shelter as a stray, meaning we don't know his owner, he is held a minimum of three days not including the first day of intake in the hopes of finding the owner(s). If the animal is wearing identification, microchipped or tattooed, we will attempt to contact the owner and hold the animal up to five days. Unless an animal has clear identification, has been rescued in a police related situation and the police tell us who the owner is or, OKCAW is told otherwise, the animal will be held as a stray. In general, animals will not be held longer than the normal three-day or five-day holding period without a court order. Therefore, law enforcement officials need to keep in close contact with OKCAW during investigations. Adoptable animals as well as lost and found pets can be found at [www.okc.gov/animalwelfare](http://www.okc.gov/animalwelfare).

Once the holding period is up, animals are evaluated for their behavior and health to determine if they are eligible for adoption, transfer or foster care. Please call 405-297-3100 for assistance with a stray or aggressive dog.

### **Animal Cruelty**

OKCAW enforces animal cruelty laws in OKC. On felony level cases we work with the local police department to prepare documentation for prosecution. If the OKC Police department enforces an animal cruelty situation, the animal will be brought to OKCAWD for a medical exam and housing. Members of the public are encouraged to contact dispatch at 405-297-3100 if you witness animal cruelty.

Continued..... ***Frequently asked questions  
about stray Animals in OKC***

## **Injured Animals**

OKCAW will provide needed medical care to sick or injured stray animals in an emergency situation. If you encounter an injured animal including wildlife, contact dispatch at 405-297-3100. An animal control officer will bring the animal in to our clinic where staff will assess the animal's needs. Whenever possible, injured animals are given medical attention and placed in foster care for recovery or cared for at our shelter unless determined by a veterinarian that the animal is suffering. Once cured, the animal is available for adoption.

Our program called the Angel Fund provides needed support to go above and beyond to care for injured animals. This program is solely supported by donations. Donations can be made online at [www.okc.gov/animalwelfare](http://www.okc.gov/animalwelfare).

## **Dead Animals**

To report a dead animal in the roadway, contact us at 405-297-3100 for removal services. We accept dead personal pets at our shelter located at 2811 SE 29th Street in Oklahoma City.

## **Dogs off Leash**

Animal Control Officers enforce the animal control ordinances in OKC. These can be found in Chapters 8 and 35 in the City Municipal Code. All dogs over four months of age in OKC are required to have a current rabies vaccination with a tag affixed to their collar. All dogs are required to be on leash or confined on your property at all times, unless in an approved off-leash area.

Continued..... ***Frequently asked questions  
about stray Animals in OKC***

## **Animal Adoptions**

Once an animal is deemed adoptable there is no set time that an animal is held available for adoption. This is based solely upon availability of space at our shelter and the continued health and behavior of the animal. Animals that are turned in by an owner are evaluated within 24 hours; if suitable they are then made available for adoption or transferred to a partner organization. The fee to adopt an animal is \$60 unless OKCAW is hosting a special fee event.

## **Alternatives to Pet Relinquishment**

OKCAW can take in 100-200 dogs and cats each day. Many of these animals are euthanized due to lack of space and homes. We are asking for your help with this problem. If you plan to turn your own animal in to the shelter, please reconsider. OKCAW has spay/neuter and a pet food bank program available to assist you in keeping your family pet. There are also many other community programs to help. Call 405-316-3663 for more information.

## **Feral Cats**

OKCAW is committed to effectively and humanely controlling the free-roaming cat problem in OKC. In examining effective programs across the country, OKCAW has concluded that the most effective solution is a Trap, Neuter, Return (TNR) program. Our Community Cat program will assist you with individual cats, getting them sterilized and returning them to your community. We partner with the Central Oklahoma Humane Society who helps with TNR programs.