

Protecting Maui's Pets



A Citizen's Guide to Animal Regulations in Maui County



Maui Humane Society created the Citizen's Guide to Animal Regulations in Maui County to help simplify animal welfare laws for the average person. It is designed to provide you with the information you need to be a compliant citizen, considerate neighbor, responsible pet owner and a positive force in your community.

For complete laws, refer to below, or visit mauihumanesociety.org for direct links to the resources listed here:

- **Federal Laws:** Refer to the USDA Animal Welfare Information Center
- **State of Hawai'i:** Refer to State of Hawai'i Legislation, Regulations and Guidelines Regarding Companion Animals
- **Maui County:** Refer to Title 6 of the Maui County Municipal Code

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Need help? Have questions? Call us at (808) 877-3680.

Ext. 201 Customer Service, including:
Adoptions
Lost/Found
Surrendering Animals
Licensing
Spay-Neuter Appointments
End of Life/Cremation Services
Humane Traps
Dog Training Classes

Ext. 211 Humane Enforcement, including:
Cruelty/ Neglect Reports
Injured Animals
Animal Pick-Ups
Legal Questions
Bark Complaints (or other)

Or e-mail us at info@mauihumanesociety.org.

About Maui County Animal Regulations

Maui County regulations have been passed to ensure the humane treatment of Maui's pets and the safety of our community. Restraint regulations protect public safety, as well as your pet from any number of unpredictable dangers. Pet licensing regulations ensure the return of your lost pet, and regulations regarding excessive barking and waste pick-up help to maintain a positive relationship between pet owners and their neighbors.

This guide is designed to provide you with the information you need to be a compliant citizen, a considerate neighbor, a responsible pet owner and a positive force in your community.

“Who are MHS Humane Officers?”

Maui Humane Society's Humane Officers are highly trained, dedicated professionals who are committed to public safety and animal protection. Our Humane officers are available to the community 24 hours a day, 7 days a week- acting not only as law enforcers, but also as educators and facilitators to pet owners all over the island.

Pursuant to State and County statutes, our officers have the same authority and powers as a police officer to issue citations in the event animal regulations and laws are violated. Our Humane Officers help rescue Maui's pets by doing everything from pulling trapped kittens out of drain pipes to returning lost pets directly from the field to their families. They are members of your community, they are animal lovers and they are here to help you be the best pet owner you can be!

Pet Licensing

Maui County Code 6.04.020 requires that all dogs over the age of 4 months be currently licensed. This includes indoor dogs, dogs that are kenneled or fenced, and dogs that “never” leave your property. Dog licenses must be current, clearly visible and worn by your dog at all times. Dog licenses are not transferable from one owner to the next or from one dog to another.

A current Maui County pet license valid for two years can be purchased at Maui Humane Society or your local DMV and is your pet’s ticket home should he or she stray or become lost. The licensing fee for an unaltered dog is \$76, or only \$11 with proof that the animal has been spayed or neutered.

Owning or harboring an unlicensed dog carries a maximum penalty of \$500.



“Am I required to license my cat?”

You are not legally required to license your cat. However, ID tags or a microchip for your cat will greatly increase the odds that your cat will be returned to you in the event that he or she strays or becomes lost.

Remember: pet licenses must be renewed every 2 years with your most current phone number and address associated with it. If your contact information changes, be sure to let us know so that we can update our records.

Restraint

Dogs that are allowed to run loose are at great risk of becoming lost, injured, or killed. In addition, a loose dog can be a nuisance or threat to people and other animals.

Maui County Code 6.04.040 requires that your dog be under restraint at all times by way of a fully enclosed yard, kennel or similar structure, or inside your residence. If you do not have a fully enclosed yard or suitable enclosure, your dog must be leashed. If your dog is tethered, you must not tether with prong, pinch or choke chains.

On property other than the owners', a dog must be secured on a leash of not more than ten feet in length and a responsible person must hold the leash. ***This includes all beaches and parks in Maui County.***



Do I need to restrain my dog at an established dog park?

You are not required to restrain your dog at established dog parks. However, you must obey the rules posted at these establishments.

Do I need to restrain my dog if he is riding in the bed of my truck?

Yes. If your dog is travelling in the back of an open pickup truck, he or she must be cross-tethered or confined in a kennel to prevent the dog from climbing or falling out of the truck bed.

Failure to keep a dog properly restrained carries a maximum penalty of \$500.

Abuse and Neglect

Maui County code 6.04.040 requires that pet owners provide their animal with sufficient care to preserve their health and well-being.

“Sufficient care” includes, but is not limited to the following requirements:

- Food of sufficient quantity and quality to allow for normal growth or maintenance of body weight.
- Open or adequate access to potable water in sufficient quantity to satisfy the animal’s needs.
- Access to suitable shelter sufficient to protect the animal from wind, rain or sun with adequate bedding to protect from wet and dampness. This may be natural or manmade.
- Veterinary care deemed necessary by a reasonably prudent person to relieve distress from injury, neglect or disease.
- Adequate space for exercise necessary for the health of the animal consistent with prudent animal care practices and access to a dry, elevated place for the animal to rest.
- If confined, confinement area must maintain an air temperature suitable for the animal involved and the animal must be able to stand up, turn around and lay down without touching other animals or the edges of the area. The area must be kept reasonably clean and free from excess waste or other contaminants which could affect the animal’s health.

If you cannot provide the above care for your pet, you are responsible for finding them an adequate home, or surrendering them to Maui Humane Society.

Failure to provide an animal with sufficient care carries a maximum penalty of \$500. Should the neglect of an animal be severe or chronic, the owner can be charged with Cruelty to Animals which is a felony offense and carries a maximum penalty of \$10,000 and up to 5 years in prison.

Reporting Abuse or Neglect

One phone call could save an animal from a life of suffering. Be the voice of the voiceless: report neglect and cruelty immediately.

If you witness abuse or neglect, or are concerned about an animal's well-being, call the Maui Humane Society at (808) 877-3680 ext. 211.

“What’s the difference between neglect and cruelty?”

Neglect is not giving an animal the right food, water, shelter or vet care. More often than not neglect is unintentional. Animals who are neglected can suffer just as much as animals that are harmed on purpose.

Animal cruelty is the intentional infliction of harm or suffering on an animal. Those who are cruel to animals are very likely to be violent to other people—even their own family—too. 71% of pet-owning women entering women's shelters reported that their batterer had injured, maimed, killed or threatened family pets for revenge or to psychologically control them.

Before you call...

Do your best to gather all the information described below.

- Provide a detailed description of the animal involved (e.g.- size, hair color, hair length, and possible breed mix)
- Provide detailed information about the location of the event. If there is an address, write it down so that you can relay this information to our call center.
- Provide detailed information about the person or persons involved or present. If you know them, provide their names, license number and contact information.
- Provide detailed information about the sequence of events you witnessed.
- If possible, provide photo or video evidence.

Please leave your name and number so we can contact you! This information is STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL and only used to maintain contact with you until the situation is resolved.

“I’ve witnessed animal abuse and neglect but I don’t want to cause problems with my neighbor or get anyone in trouble with the law.”

Your call to us is an act of compassion for another living being and a noble act. If you are concerned about conflict between you and your neighbor, please remember that your report is kept strictly confidential. Any interaction we have with pet owners is intended only to protect the animal’s well-being.

The vast majority of neglect issues can be addressed and amended without needing to issue a citation, so your neighbor will not necessarily be fined or prosecuted. More importantly, your call creates an educational opportunity for a pet owner to learn how to take steps toward being a more responsible caretaker.



Your testimony could save an animal from a life of suffering.

If you have reported animal abuse, we urge you be willing to testify on behalf of that animal in a court of law. While you are not legally required to disclose your identity, your word might be their only protection, and a ticket to a better life.

Stray/ Loose Animal Pick Up

Our Humane Officers respond to calls dealing with stray *domesticated* animals – this includes dogs, cats, pocket pets (rabbits, guinea pigs, pet rats and mice) horses and farm animals, fish, turtles and tortoises. For wildlife issues, please refer to the Animal Management FAQs on page 20.

Our Humane officers can only pick up animals that are restrained or confined. Humane traps are available for rental with a deposit at the Maui Humane Society by filling out a trap agreement in the front office.

Reporting a Stray or Loose Animal

The more information you give us, the more we can do to help. When you call to report a lost or stray animal, provide us with as much information as you possibly can, as soon as you can:

- Provide us with a description of the animal's size, hair color, hair length and possible breed mix. Let us know if you noticed any distinguishing features.
- Can you tell us where they live?
- Can you tell us what time you first saw them loose?
- If you know the animal's owner, let us know how to find them. Provide the owner's address, name and telephone number if you have it.
- Please leave your name and number so we can contact you! This information is strictly confidential. It is only used to maintain contact with you until the situation is resolved.

Reporting a Lost Animal

We're here to help you keep your pet! If you realize your pet is lost, contact us immediately. File a 'lost' report with us as soon as possible, and be sure to leave you correct name and phone number.

Post fliers, notify your neighbors and post on Craigslist. I.D. tags and microchips can also increase your chances of reuniting with your pet.

Dog Bites and Dangerous Dogs

For the safety of our community, it is imperative to report every dog bite or aggressive encounter with a dog to the Maui Humane Society.

If you experience or witness a dog attack, call us immediately at (808) 877-3680 ext. 211. Our Humane Officers will initiate an investigation and take the appropriate action to address the problem. The information you provide helps prevent future occurrences and helps keep your neighborhood safe.

Maui County Code 6.04.040 states “An owner of a dog shall not intentionally, knowingly, recklessly, or negligently permit the dog to attack a person or domestic animal; or behave in a manner that a reasonable person would believe poses an imminent threat of bodily injury to a person or serious injury or death to a domestic animal.”

“My dog has shown aggressive behavior, but hasn’t actually attacked anyone. Is he/she considered a ‘dangerous dog’?”

Not unless a Humane Officer has deemed the dog officially ‘dangerous’. If an officer has probable cause to believe that a dog is dangerous, that officer may give the owner of the dog a written notice that the dog has been deemed a “dangerous dog”, and subject to the conditions of ownership as a dangerous dog (e.g. – mandatory spay/neuter and pet insurance). Maui County Code 6.04.046 outlines special regulations for dangerous dogs. Please visit our website for the complete Maui County code.

If your dog shows aggressive behavior, take steps to train, socialize and rehabilitate your dog. Taking precautionary measures when restraining your dog could prevent a potentially disastrous situation from happening.

Owners of a dog that has been deemed dangerous face a maximum penalty of \$1000 and/or 30 days in jail should they fail to comply with the requirements of owning a dangerous dog.

Prevent dog bites by keeping your dog restrained at all times for the safety of both your pet and your community.

“My dog is not the aggressive one. Why should I restrain him/her?”

Restraining your dog doesn't just keep your community safe from your dog, it keeps your dog safe from you community! Restrained dogs will remain close to you and under your supervision in the event that another animal becomes hostile or aggressive toward them. It also prevents them from getting into or eating things that may be very harmful to their health.



“Does the Maui Humane Society support breed-specific legislation?”

There is no evidence that breed-specific laws, which are costly and difficult to enforce, make communities safer for people or companion animals. Certainly, any breed of dog is capable of aggression. Many other factors beyond breed may affect a dog's tendency toward aggression such as heredity, sex, early experience, reproductive status, socialization and training. 70% of bite cases involve unneutered male dogs, and 78% were owned not as pets, but for guarding, fighting or breeding. The Maui Humane Society seeks effective enforcement of **breed-neutral laws** that hold dog owners accountable for the actions of their animals.

Barking

Barking problems can be very challenging to resolve and can cause great stress and friction in the neighborhood. Don't let your pet's barking cause needless hard feelings between you and your neighbors. Instead, take steps to correct your dog of this undesirable habit. Guidance is available by consulting an obedience trainer, your veterinarian, resources on the internet or the Maui Humane Society.

The Maui Humane Society provides instruction, training advice and informational material that can assist a dog owner in addressing unwanted behaviors. If your dog has a barking problem, please call the Maui Humane Society at (808) 877-3680 for assistance.

Maui County Code 6.04.010 defines excessive barking as follows:

“Excessive barking means continuous and/or incessant barking, baying, crying, howling, or any other noise which disturbs any person at any time of day or night for (10) consecutive minutes or intermittently for twenty (20) minutes; provided, however, that barking shall not be deemed excessive if such barking is the result of a trespass or threatened trespass by a person or persons on private property on which the dog is situated or is the result of a person teasing or otherwise provoking the dog.”

Any person convicted of a barking violation shall be fined up to \$500 per charge.



Reporting a Bark Complaint

To report barking, a person must first document the barking to prove it violates county law. **Visit www.MauiHumaneSociety.org to download the full instructions for reporting a barking complaint.** It is highly recommended you record the barking (either 10 minutes of continuous barking or 20 minutes of intermittent barking) as evidence to support your case. You must provide this information to our Humane Enforcement department by filling out and submitting a Barking Violation Information Form (available on our website) in person at Maui Humane Society in order for them to legally take action. Upon receiving a documented bark complaint, our Humane Officers will try to work with the owner to resolve the situation. This process takes a minimum of three weeks. If this is not effective, the Humane Officer will then fill out a report that is sent to the County Prosecutor's Office.

It is the County Prosecutor's decision whether or not to issue a fine for excessive barking, not the decision of the Maui Humane Society or its Humane Officers.

“If I report a barking complaint, will the dog be taken away from its owner?”

Dogs are never impounded just for barking complaints. The only circumstances under which we would remove a dog from its home would be if the animal is suffering, in danger, or poses imminent threat to people or animals and proper measures have not been taken by the owner to restrain, rehabilitate and confine the dog. These measures are taken to ensure the **SAFETY** of all parties involved, both human and animal.

“Why is my dog barking?”

Finding out why your dog barks can help you make changes to reduce barking behavior. As you take steps to fix the problem, keep your neighbors in the loop on your dog's progress. You might even need their help in determining the cause of your dog's barking. Training a dog to control excessive or undesirable barking takes great commitment and perseverance on your part, but the benefits are great – including a good relationship with both your neighbors AND your dog!

Dogs bark for a number of reasons. Among them are the following:

1) Social Isolation/ Frustration/ Attention-Seeking Behavior

Your dog may be barking out of boredom or loneliness if he's left alone for long periods of time without opportunities to interact with you, or if his environment is relatively barren, without companions or toys. Puppies, adolescents, and particularly active dogs need outlets for their high energy and become anxious if they are not occupied.

Recommendations: Make sure your dog has sufficient time with you and walk your dog at least twice daily (this is also great for bonding with your dog). Provide safe, interesting toys to keep your dog busy such as Kong-type toys filled with treats or busy-box toys. Rotating toys will keep them new and interesting to your dog.

2) Territorial/ Protective Behavior

Your dog may be barking to guard his territory if the barking occurs in the presence of 'intruders', which may include the mail carrier, children walking to school, and other dogs or neighbors in adjacent yards.

Is your dog's tail held high and are his ears up and forward? This type of posture indicates your dog is being territorial. Encouraging your dog to be responsive to people and noises outside will increase this behavior.

Recommendations: Teach your dog a "quiet" command. When he begins to bark at a passerby, allow a few barks then say "quiet" and interrupt his barking by distracting him with a loud sound or a water bottle squirt in his mouth. When he's quiet, say "good quiet" and pop a tasty treat into his mouth. Remember, the loud noise is not meant as a punishment. Your goal is to distract him into being quiet so you can reward their quiet behavior.

Desensitize your dog to intruders by socializing him and introducing him to many different types of strangers. Reward quiet behavior and responses to a "sit" or "down" command with treats. Pay attention to your dog when he is quiet so that he comes to associate such behavior with attention and praise.

Have your dog spayed or neutered to decrease territorial behavior and do NOT encourage your dog to bark at things he sees and hears outside.

3) Fear Behavior

Your dog's barking may be a response to something he's afraid of if it occurs when he's exposed to loud noises (thunderstorms, firecrackers, construction noise).

If your dog's ears are back, with his tail held low, this indicates a state of fear.

Recommendations: Identify what is frightening your dog and desensitize him to it. This process may require professional help- consult a training/behavior specialist for guidance during your dog's rehabilitation process.

Create a safe, comfortable space that blocks off access to outdoor views that might be causing a fear response, by closing curtains or doors to certain rooms. Avoid coddling your dog. He will interpret it as being rewarded for fearful behavior.

4) Separation Anxiety Behavior

Your dog may be barking due to separation anxiety if the barking occurs only when you're gone and starts as soon as, or shortly after, you leave or if your dog displays other behaviors that reflect a strong attachment to you, or an anxious reaction whenever you prepare to leave.

Recommendations: Some cases of separation anxiety can be resolved using counter-conditioning and desensitization techniques. Successful treatment for some cases may also require the use of medication prescribed by your veterinarian.

Bark Collars

Please be aware that while effective, bark collars do not address the underlying cause of barking. Symptom substitution may occur and your dog may begin digging or escaping, or become destructive or even aggressive. **A bark collar must be used in conjunction with behavior modification that addresses the reason for the barking.** There are three different types of bark collars: shock collars deliver low levels of shock to the dog, while ultrasonic/sonic collars use sound as a means of discipline. Citronella collars rely on your dog's keen sense of smell to aid in disciplining. You should never use a bark collar on your dog if his barking is due to separation anxiety, fears or phobias because punishment always makes fear and anxiety behaviors worse.

Be a good neighbor.

Remember, you are a steward for your pets. Barking may not be dangerous, and cleaning up after your pet may not be the most fun part about being a dog owner, but correcting undesirable behavior and picking up after your pet are gestures of consideration toward the people and animals you share your community with.

In order to maintain peace in your neighborhood and community, you have to be a considerate neighbor yourself. Allowing your dog to defecate without disposing of it is not only unsightly; it poses a potential health hazard as feces is a contaminant and can carry disease. Please, keep your dog restrained and pick up after them.



**Please have your
dog on a leash**



**Please pick up
after your pet**

Dog–Fighting and Cock–Fighting

“How do blood sports affect people?”

Dog and cock-fighting doesn't just hurt animals, it endangers a community's safety. Illegal drugs and firearms are commonly found at the scene of animal fighting events. Young children brought to matches are desensitized to violence and taught that cruelty is acceptable. Evidence shows that those who have committed blood sport crimes and other forms of animal abuse are more likely to be violent toward people. According to a three-year study by the Chicago Police Department, 65 percent of people arrested for animal abuse crimes including dog-fighting were also arrested for violent crimes against people.

Dog-fighting is a felony in all 50 states. It is also a federal felony punishable by up to 10 years imprisonment and/or a maximum \$25,000 fine.

“What happens in a dog-fight?”

Dogs, usually pit bulls, are bred and trained to fight each other to the death or until one dog can't continue – all for the amusement of spectators and the profits from high-stakes gambling. Fights can last for hours, as the dogs are trained to continue even after suffering serious wounds. Dogs that can't fight are abandoned or mercilessly killed by electrocution or gunshot.

Cock-fights are illegal in all 50 states. In the State of Hawaii it is a misdemeanor, punishable by up to 1 year of imprisonment and/or a maximum \$2000 fine. Cock-fighting with spurs warrants animal cruelty (see page 4).

“What happens in a cock-fight?”

Two or more roosters are put in a ring and forced to fight, and people bet on which bird will win. The birds wear spurs on their legs, intended to inflict maximum damage on its opponent. The actual fight usually lasts until one of the birds dies—which can take anywhere from a couple of minutes to more than 30 minutes.

If you witness a dogfight or cockfight in progress, contact the Maui Police Department immediately. If you suspect dog-fighting or cock-fighting in your neighborhood, contact the Maui Humane Society at (808) 877-3680. Your identity will be kept confidential.

Animal Management FAQs

If my pet is missing and I call the Maui Humane Society to report it, will I get in trouble for my pet being loose?

For your pet's safety, please report missing pets as soon as you realize they are missing to give them the best chance at returning home. You may have to pay a fee if your animal spends time at the shelter to cover the cost of boarding, or if your pet has been found loose more than once.

I am out of town and my pet's caretaker told me my pet has gone missing. What should I do?

Call the Maui Humane Society as soon as possible, and have your caretaker call us as well. Because of limited space, waiting until you return to call us may be a matter of life or death.

If I call to report neglect or cruelty, will you take the person's pet away from them?

Pets are considered private property, so animals will only be seized if the animal is clearly suffering or in danger, or the dog presents a continuing threat of serious harm to human beings or animals.

Is there a limit to how many pets a person can own?

There is no state or county limit to how many animals a person can own if they are all properly cared for and all property laws are being abided. However, some properties may have restrictions so always check with your landlord or Homeowner's Association before choosing to add another furry member to your family.

Does Maui Humane Society have the authority to force euthanasia on a person's pet?

We do not have the authority to force a pet owner to euthanize their pet. A court of law will determine whether or not a dangerous dog should be euthanized.

Does Maui Humane Society have the authority to enter people's property to assess a situation?

Our Humane Officers must obey property laws and cannot break into people's yards. If the Officer does not have access to the property, their best effort will be made to make a visual assessment of the situation from a publicly accessible location.

Why does it sometimes take a long time for a Humane Officer to respond to my call?

Maui Humane Society has only a few officers tasked to cover a very large amount of area. Because of this, calls are prioritized.

Why doesn't MHS pull over people who don't tether their dogs in truck beds?

Maui Humane Society Humane Officers do not drive emergency vehicles. This means we have to obey all the same traffic laws as everyone else- and we do not have the authority to pull people over. If you see an improperly restrained dog, help us to protect these animals by noting the vehicle's license plate number and reporting it immediately to the Maui Humane Society.

Who should I call if I have a wildlife-related issue?

Maui Humane Society deals specifically with issues related to domesticated animals as outlined on page 7. For general wildlife issues, please contact the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources at (808) 984-8100. For snakes, lizards and other reptiles please contact the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture at (808) 973-9560.

How do I report an injured animal or other animal-related emergency after hours?

For afterhours emergencies, contact the Maui Humane Society at (808) 877-3680 ext. 211. If you or someone you know is attacked or in immediate danger, dial 911.

For more information about Maui Humane Society Humane Operations and Maui County Animal Regulations and Laws, please visit our website at www.MauiHumaneSociety.org or call us at (808) 877-3680.



maui
humane
society

PROVIDING LOVE. PREVENTING CRUELTY.

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