

What is Responsible Pet Ownership?

Responsible pet owners...

- 🐾 Consider the physical, emotional, and psychological needs of their pet as well as the safety and security of their family and the public.
- 🐾 Seek to provide their animals with the best care possible, while also putting the needs of people first.
- 🐾 Consider the legal requirements of their area.
- 🐾 Research the needs of an animal as well as their own intentions and abilities prior to obtaining a new pet, and are careful to find the right match for their home.
- 🐾 Seek alternatives to relinquishing a pet to a shelter when behavior issues make managing a pet difficult.
- 🐾 Are committed to the care of their pet for its lifetime.
- 🐾 Always supervise pets and children when they are together.

Responsible Pet Owners meet these needs of their Pets

- 🐾 Nutritious food
- 🐾 Fresh, clean water
- 🐾 Safe shelter
- 🐾 Regular medical care
- 🐾 Daily exercise
- 🐾 Early socialization for young animals
- 🐾 Training for appropriate behaviors, especially for dogs
- 🐾 Secure containments and protection

Your Legal Responsibilities as a Responsible Pet Owner in the City of North Muskegon

- 🐾 Keep your pet safely confined. This is for the safety of your pet as well as for your family and the public.
- 🐾 You are responsible for your pet's behavior.
- 🐾 Clean up fecal matter--at home and in public.
- 🐾 If you own a dangerous dog, you must have liability insurance in the amount of \$50,000 to protect the public. You may also need to comply with other legal requirements.
- 🐾 You must vaccinate your dog against rabies, in accordance with state law.
- 🐾 You must license your dog with Muskegon County.
- 🐾 Never train an animal to be vicious, or allow vicious behavior to continue.
- 🐾 Do not be cruel to an animal, or poison an animal.
- 🐾 Do not allow your pet to be a nuisance to others in the area. This includes excessive barking and howling.
- 🐾 Abandoning an animal is illegal and puts the animal and others at risk.
- 🐾 Seek appropriate, professional help if you cannot keep your pet responsibly.
- 🐾 You may have up to three adult dogs and four adult cats in the city. At four months, puppies and kittens are considered adults legally.
- 🐾 You may keep two species of domestic fowl as pets under specific conditions.
- 🐾 Horses, cows, sheep, and swine are prohibited in the city.

Where to Turn if you Need Help

Pound Buddies Rescue
231-767-0921

Humane Society & Animal Rescue of Muskegon
231-773-8689

Noah Project
231-865-1264

West Michigan SPCA
231-788-5933

For stray animals, bites, or cruelty, or to report other violations of the animal ordinance:

City of North Muskegon Police Department
231-744-4313

County of Muskegon Animal Control
231-724-6002

For assistance with pet medical or other care and keeping costs call:

Pound Buddies Rescue
231-767-0921

To view the City of North Muskegon's Animal Ordinance:

www.cityofnorthmuskegon.com

Dog Bite Prevention for Children

🐾 **Always** supervise children and dogs when they are together! Supervision by responsible dog owners and other adults can prevent bites from happening.

🐾 Socialize young dogs and train them to behave calmly around others, especially children.

🐾 Obedience commands, especially drop it, leave it, sit, down, stay, stand and come can be very helpful in managing a dog's behavior. The training process can also develop desirable character in a dog, making him safer when an owner is not present.

🐾 Teach children to behave calmly and appropriately around dogs. Do not allow them to tease, startle, or chase dogs, and encourage gentle petting and play only.

🐾 Teach children to respect a dog's space and quiet time when crated or otherwise confined.

🐾 Teach dogs not to chase or put their mouths on children, and confine dogs before children overwhelm them.

🐾 Teach children to pet strange dogs only when the dog is leashed and calm, when given permission by an adult and after allowing the dog to smell the back of their hand.

🐾 Teach children to ask for help instead of approaching a loose dog, and to never approach a dog when fenced, tethered, or kenneled.

🐾 Teach children to be still and quiet, and avoiding eye contact, when approached by a loose dog.

Any further questions can be directed to:

**City of North Muskegon
1502 Ruddiman
N. Muskegon, MI 49445
231-744-1621**

Published in cooperation with:
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RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP IN THE CITY OF NORTH MUSKEGON



To obtain a copy of the newly adopted North Muskegon Animal Ordinance, please stop by city hall or download it off the City's website:
www.cityofnorthmuskegon.com