

Maine

Animal Resource Guide

— 2016 —

Get Key Information About:

Wildlife Rehabilitators, Rescue Leagues & Shelters, Animal Welfare Organizations, Emergency Care, & Much More!

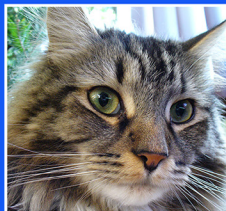


Table of Contents

1. Wildlife	
Wildlife Rehabilitators by County	3
Wildlife Advocacy Groups.....	8
State Agency, Laws and Rules.....	8
Emergency Information.....	8
2. Horses	
Rescues and Shelters.....	9
3. Farm Animals (cows, pigs, goats, turkeys, etc.)	
Rescues and Shelters.....	9
4. Companion Animals (dogs, cats, birds, rabbits, mice etc.)	
Shelters and Breed Rescues by County	10
Exotic Birds.....	15
Feral Cats	15
Emergency Veterinarian Clinics	15
Poison Control	15
Rights of Purchasers of Dogs and Cats	16
Assistance with Paying for Vet Bills.....	16
Low Cost Spay/Neuter Services	17
Finding a Lost Companion Animal	22
Protecting Companion Animals from Domestic Violence	23
Benefits of Dog Licensing	24
Humane Dog Trainers.....	24
Traveling with Companion Animals.....	24
Planning For a Disaster.....	25
Bereavement of a Companion Animal.....	25
5. To Report Abuse or an Emergency	
Maine’s Animal Welfare Program/To Report Abuse.....	26
Animal Control.....	26
Emergencies.....	26
Animal Welfare Laws	26
6. Service Animals	27
7. Marine Animals	28
8. Maine-based Animal Advocacy Groups	29
9. Humane Education/Vivisection/Dissection Rights	
Humane Education.....	30
Maine’s Laws on Vivisection in Schools.....	30
Maine Students’ Right to Alternatives to Dissection.....	31
10. Vegetarianism	32

Wildlife Rehabilitators by County

Wildlife Rehabilitators must be licensed by the State of Maine's Department of Inland Fish and Wildlife. In some cases, such as wild non-game birds, a federal permit is required. For more information, visit the department's web site at www.maine.gov/ifw/wildlife/rehabilitation/. The Department's site provides information on how to become a wildlife rehabilitator, how to locate one in your area, and links to applicable laws and rules.

Androscoggin County

Adam Farrington **Phone:** 210-1366

Location: 141 Watson Road, Poland ME 04274

Rehab details: Snakes, turtles, small mammals, otter, mink and muskrat.

Jennifer Galloway **Phone:** 524-2071

Location: 377 Bishop Hill Road, Leeds, ME 04282

Rehab details: No Federal Permit. Limited to mammals, but will transport birds.

Jennifer Lewis **Phone:** 212-1039

Location: 17 Aspen Way, Turner, ME 04282

Rehab details: No Federal Permit. All mammals and reptiles. Prefers orphaned young over injured wildlife. Will transport.

Aroostook County

(Note: There is no one licensed in Aroostook County at this time.)

Wendy Stevens **Phones:** 290-0267, 731-1192

Location: 15 Bunny Lane, Springfield, ME 04487

Rehab details: Small mammals including raccoons, skunks, fox, squirrels & chipmunks.

Cumberland County

Kristine Beaudoin **Phone:** 807-1986

Location: 320 Longhill Road, Seabago ME 04029

Rehab details: No Federal Permit.

Jessica Jackson **Phone:** 807-2585

Location: 47 Meadow Road, Casco, ME 04015 *(Rt. 302 to Rt. 121 in Raymond. Right on 121, follow for 4.5 miles. There's a gas station on left & Plains Road on right. Fourth driveway on right. Big white house with brown deck.)*

Rehab details: No Federal Permit. Small mammals in size up to and including raccoon and fox.

Curt Johnson **Phone:** 657-4977

Location: 56 Game Farm Road, Gray, ME 04039

Rehab details: None.

Rachel Parsons**Phone:** 838-0268**Location:** 7 Adler Drive, Gray, ME 04039**Rehab details:** No Federal Permit. Small mammals only.**Pamela Richardson****Phones:** 428-3348, 838-8967**Location:** 6 Worcester Drive, Raymond ME 04071 (*From Brown Road in Raymond bear right at 2 forks onto Worcester Dr. 3rd house on left, Just past cement bridge.*)**Rehab details:** No Federal Permit. Aquatic mammals, small mammals and reptiles.**David & Joshua Sparks****Phone:** 892-8905**Location:** 46 Rousseau Road, Windham, ME 04062*(One half mile from the River Road on Windham/Westbrook line.)***Rehab details:** Has Federal Permit. All birds.**Martha (Kappy) Sprenger****Phone:** 647-5593**Location:** 253 Highland Road, Fire Lane 137, Bridgton, ME 04009 (*1.2 miles from Rte 302*)**Rehab details:** Has federal permit. Accepts all birds and mammals. Specializes in fish eating birds and chicks.**Caryl Widdowson****Phone:** 657-2094**Location:** 27 Whitney Road, Gray, ME 04039**Rehab details:** No Federal Permit. Small mammals, no large mammals or foxes. Does not transport.

Franklin County

Dawn Brown**Phone:** 778-2902**Location:** 90 Mountain Road, New Sharon, ME 04955 (*On Rome-New Sharon town line*)**Rehab details:** No federal permit. Small and large mammals. Specific species – black bear cub and yearling rehab, research and release.

Hancock County

Nancy Fox**Phone:** 667-5130**Location:** 659 Newbury Neck Road, Surry, ME 04684**Rehab details:** No Federal Permit. General rehab.**Heather Grierson****Phone:** 667-3244**Location:** 446 Bar Harbor Road, Trenton, ME 04605**Rehab details:** Has Federal Permit. All mammals with the exception of raccoons, and some birds.**Stanley Richmond****Phones:** 667-3595, 667-8460**Location:** Stanwood Wildlife Sanctuary, Bar Harbor Road, Ellsworth, ME 04605 (*Past the Maine Coast Mall*)**Rehab details:** Has Federal Permit. Migratory birds, no mammals.

Ann Rivers**Phone:** 288-4960**Location:** Kitteridge Brook Road, Mount Desert, ME 04660*(Acadia Wildlife Foundation is located 3 miles south of Town Hill Center.)***Rehab details:** Has Federal Permit. Cares for all birds, turtles, and all mammals except raccoons. Specialize in bats, large mammals, have facilities for species requiring water.**Kennebec County****Don & Carleen Cote****Phone:** 445-4326**Location:** 1787 North Belfast Ave, Vassalboro, ME 04989*(Adjacent to Three-Mile Pond rest area/boat launch. Gray house and garage.)***Rehab details:** Has Federal Permit. Birds, mammals, turtles, raccoons.**William Portela****Phone:** 549-3495**Location:** 36 Greeley Road, Windsor, ME 04363*(off Rte. 105 in Windsor, 2.3 miles E of Hussey's Store [Maple Land Farm])***Rehab details:** No federal Permit. All animals.**Knox County****Margo Bryant Maloney D.V.M.****Phone:** 557-5669**Location:** 22 Atlantic Highway, Thomaston, ME 04861. *Mobile triage unit.***Rehab details:** Has Federal Permit. All wildlife.**Beth Settlemyer****Phones:** 832-5044, 832-1352**Location:** 13 Rawstron Drive, Friendship, ME 04547*(Located off Rte 220, turn onto Martin Point Road -2.5 miles, left turn to driveway.)***Rehab details:** Has Federal Permit. Specializes in seabirds.**Lincoln County****Bridget Green****Phones:** 882-7951, 631-0874**Location:** Fire Road 608, Wiscasset, ME 04578 *(Approx. 2 miles from downtown.**Follow Rte1 south -gray home in woods behind Green's gas station.)***Rehab details:** No Federal Permit. Small mammals, raccoons. No birds.**Anna Hunt****Phone:** 882-7323**Location:** Chewonki Foundation, 485 Chewonki Neck Road, Wiscasset, ME 04578**Rehab details:** Has Federal Permit.**Mary (Betsy) Pratt****Phones:** 633-3617, 882-9677**Location:** 434 Pension Ridge Road, Boothbay, ME 04537*(Rte 27 Boothbay to Hardwick Road. End of Hardwick, right onto Pension Ridge, go 1 ½ miles. Tan house on left.)***Rehab details:** No Federal Permit. Small mammals.

Oxford County

Katrina Carstensen

Phone: 583-2105

Location: 47 Mountain View Drive, Otisfield, ME 04270

Rehab details: Has Federal Permit. Small and medium-sized mammals.

Matthew E. Holden, D.V.M.

Phone: 743-9271

Location: Oxford Hills Vet Hospital, 136 Western Avenue, South Paris, ME 04281

Rehab details: Has Federal Permit.

Melody Echo Thurlow

Phone: 527-2310

Location: 337 Shedd Road, Norway, ME 04268

Rehab details: No Federal Permit. Small mammals only.

Penobscot County

William Arthurs Jr.

Phone: 403-0921

Facility: Wolf Run Wildlife Refuge, 2762 Lee Road, Lee, ME 04455

Rehab details: Has 3 buildings and is set up for anything with fur.

Matthew Ewing

Phone: 944-9974

Facility: 883 Forest Ave, Orono, ME 04473

Rehab details: IF & W referrals only.

Evelyn Jordan

Phone: 794-6178

Location: 149 Pea Ridge Road, Chester, ME 04457

(Yellow house with saw mill operation [Jordan Mill Works] located 1 ½ miles down Pea Ridge Road in Chester – 1 mile past Chester Animal Hospital)

Rehab details: Has Federal Permit. Will rehabilitate birds (has facilities for up to three) and reptiles.

Deborah Joslyn

Phone: 385-6943

Location: Alton, ME 04468

Rehab details: Small animals. No birds or reptiles.

Wendy Stevens

Phones: 290-0267, 731-1192

Location: 15 Bunny Lane, Springfield, ME 04487

Rehab details: Small mammals including raccoons, skunks, fox, squirrels & chipmunks.

Sagadahoc County

Deborah L Bryan

Phone: 607-0110

Location: 49 Deer Run Road, Bowdoin, ME 04287 *(Take left on 201 North to Rte 125 East past Lewis Hill Road, up small hill to first paved road on left. Home is 4th driveway on right)*

Rehab details: No Federal Permit. Small and large mammals.

Somerset County**Colleen Mercier****Phone:** 431-7874**Location:** 568 Moulton Road, Emden, ME 04958**Rehab details:** No Federal Permit. Small mammals only — no bigger than a raccoon.**Waldo County****Laura Graham/Marc Payne/Diane Winn****Phone:** 382-6761**Facility:** Avian Haven, 418 N. Palermo Road, Freedom, ME 04941 (*Gray-green cape, 1.5 miles north from S. Freedom Road or 2 miles south from Rte 137.*)**Rehab details:** Has Federal Permit. All birds and reptiles. No mammals.**Sandra Stone****Phones:** 223-4213, 592-9000**Location:** 240 Swanville Road, Frankfort, ME 04438 (*Green barn on the Swanville Road about 2 miles from Swanlake Park towards Frankfort.*)**Rehab details:** No Federal Permit. All mammals, no birds.**Chelsea Vosburgh****Phone:** 772-618-5147**Location:** 591 Albion Road, Unity, ME 04988**Rehab details:** Bats and will triage and transport other small mammals.**York County****The Center for Wildlife****Phone:** 361-1400**Facility:** The Center for Wildlife, 385 Mountain Road, Cape Neddick, ME 03902**Rehab details:** Has Federal Permit. All birds, small mammals and reptiles. No fox, raccoon or skunks.**Bethany Brown****Phone:** 702-1405**Location:** 238 River Road, Limington, ME 04049**Rehab details:** Small mammals and reptiles.**New Hampshire****Elaine Connors Center for Wildlife Phone:** 603-367-9453**Facility:** 152 Pine Hill Road, Madison, NH 03849 (*Rte 41 on Silver Lake, look for sign*)**Rehab details:** Has Federal Permit.

Maine Wildlife Groups: Advocacy and Education

Wildlife Alliance of Maine

Phone: 941-WILD

Location: 96 Harlow Street, 3rd floor, Suite 1A Bangor, ME 04401

E-mail: info@wildlifealliancemaine.org

Maine Audubon Society

Phone: 781-2330

Location: 20 Gilsland Farm Road, Falmouth, ME 04105

E-mail: info@maineaudubon.org

Web site: www.maineaudubon.org

State Agencies, Laws and Rules

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife **Phone:** 287-8000

Location: 284 State Street, 41 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04533-0041

Web site: www.maine.gov/ifw/

Laws and Rules

For Hunting and Fishing laws and rules go to Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife website under Laws and Rules. www.maine.gov/ifw/

Maine Operation Game Thief

Call 1-800-253-7887 or 1-800-ALERTUS to report violations of Maine hunting and fishing laws. Maine Operation Game Thief (Maine OGT) is a private, non-profit organization that works with the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Service to pay rewards to citizens who turn in poachers. Rewards of up to \$1,000, based on severity, are paid for information that leads to the arrest or summons being issued for a fish or wildlife violation. Rewards up to \$2,000 are paid for information that leads to the arrest or summons being issued to individuals unlawfully introducing nonnative fish species into Maine's waters. In all cases, the caller remains anonymous and does not have to reveal his or her name or testify in court. For more information go to: www.maineogt.org/

Emergencies

To reach a game warden 24-hours a day contact Maine State Police at one of the following numbers:

Augusta: 1-800-452-4664 or 624-7076

Houlton: 1-800-924-2261 or 532-5400

Orono: 1-800-432-7381 or 866-2122

Gray: 1-800-228-0857 or 657-3030

Cellular Calls: 911

Rescues and Shelters — Horses

Double B Animal Rescue

997 West Mills Road, Industry, ME 04938

Phone: 778-6479

Downeast Large Animal Society

460 Hatchery Road, Deblois, ME 04622

Phone: 638-3005

Ever After Mustang Rescue

463 West St., Biddeford, ME 04006

Phone: 284-7721

First Light Equine Shelter

576 Shore Road, Perry, ME 04667

Phone: 853-9453

Gray's Equestrian Training

849 Post Road, Bowdoinham, ME 04008

Phone: 522-8300

Haven for Horses

1294 Long Plains Road, Buxton, ME 04092

Phone: 929-3910

Last Stop Horse Rescue

938 Tar Ridge Road, Prentiss, ME 04487

Phone: 765-2284

Maine State Society**for the Protection of Animals**

279 River Road, Windham, ME 04062

Phone: 1(800) 482-7447

Rockin T Equine Rescue Inc.

60 Edgecomb Road, Lisbon Falls, ME 04256

Phone: 353-6581

Rescues and Shelters — Farm Animals (Cows, pigs, goats, turkeys, etc.)

Peace Ridge Farm Sanctuary

653 Back Ridge Road, Penobscot, ME 04476

Phone: 326-9507

Sissy's Livestock Rescue & Farm

35B Thompson Settlement Road, Oakfield, ME 04763

Phone: 538-6206

Companion Animals

Rescues and Shelters by County — Companion Animals

(Dogs, Cats, Birds, Rabbits, Mice etc.)

Androscoggin County

Greater Androscoggin Humane Society **Phone:** 786-4713

55 Strawberry Avenue, Lewiston, ME 04252

Dog Rehabilitation Center of Maine **Phone:** 841-8575

379 Quaker Ridge Road, Greene, ME 04756

M.J. Ford **Phone:** 353-4561

20 Upland Road, Lisbon, ME 04236

Aroostook County

Ark Animal Sanctuary **Phone:** 532-7387

70 Main St., Houlton, ME 04730

Canine Klink **Phone:** 472-3808

18 Community Center Dr., Fort Fairfield, ME 04742

Central Aroostook Humane Society **Phone:** 764-3441

26 Cross St., Presque Isle, ME 04769

Fort Kent Police Holding Facility **Phone:** 834-5678

11 West Main St., Fort Kent, ME 04743

Halfway Home Pet Rescue **Phone:** 492-1722

11 Pioneer Ave., Caribou ME 04736

Houlton Humane Society **Phone:** 532-2862

263 Callahan Road, Houlton, ME 04730

Madawaska Animal Holding Facility **Phone:** 728-6356

428 Main St., Madawaska, ME 04756

Valley Cat Haven (PAWS) **Phone:** 543-7348

8 Rye Ave., Fort Kent Mill, ME 04744

Van Buren Animal Holding Facility **Phone:** 868-3481

65 Main Street, Van Buren, ME 04785

Cumberland County

**Animal Behavior Consultants and
Avant-Garde Pet Care, LLC** **Phone:** 892-8388

301 Roosevelt Trail, Windham, ME 04062

Animal Refuge League **Phone:** 854-9771

449 Stroudwater St., Westbrook, ME 04092

Coastal Humane Society

30 Range Road, Brunswick, ME 04011

Phone: 725-5051

Doggie Cottage

35 Bull Run Road, Gray, ME 04039

Phone: 657-7311

Hemlock Valley

326 Richville Road, Standish, ME 04084

Phone: 838-1956

Homeless Animal Rescue Team of Maine (HART)

302 Range Road, Cumberland, ME 04021

Phone: 829-4116

Seymour's Bird Refuge

6 Forest Lake Road, West Cumberland, ME 04021

Phone: 829-5752

Tall Tails Beagle Rescue

81 Pleasant Hill Road, Freeport, ME 04032

Phone: 797-5392

Franklin County

Franklin County Animal Shelter

550 Industry Road, Farmington, ME 04938

Phone: 778 2638

Hancock County

Acadia Veterinary Hospital

21 Federal St., Bar Harbor, ME 04609

Phone: 288-5733

Bucksport Animal Holding Facility

Outer Central Street, Bucksport, ME 04416

Phone: 469-7368

Cottontail Cottage Rabbit Rescue

21 Cottontail Lane, Lamoine, ME 04605

Phone: 664-0344

Small Animal Clinic

9 Toothaker Lane, Ellsworth, ME 04605

Phone: 667-2341

SPCA Hancock County

141 Bar Harbor Road, Trenton, ME 04605

Phone: 667-8088

Southwest Harbor Animal Welfare, Inc.

15 Wood Street, Southwest Harbor, ME 04679

Phone: 244-3749

Kennebec County

C.C. Strays Animal Rescue

517 Johnson Flat Road, Clinton, ME 04927

Phone: 660-3236

Charley's Strays Inc.

117 McCarthy Road, Benton, ME 04901

Phone: 426-9482

Dogs Deserve Better of Windsor

23 Rogers Road, Windsor, ME 04363

Phone: 215-6972

Companion Animals

Humane Society — Waterville Area

100 Webb Road, Waterville, ME 04901

Phone: 872-9222

Kennebec Valley Humane Society

Pet Haven Lane, Augusta, ME 04330

Phone: 626-3491

Maine Greyhound Placement Service

249 Old Belgrade Road, Augusta, ME 04330

Phone: 846-4707

PALS

188 Case Road, Winthrop, ME 04364

Phone: 395-4274

Sydhilla Chinchillas

40 Sixth Ave, Augusta, ME 04330

Phone: 626-0130

Knox County

Humane Society of Knox County

Dexter Street Extension, Thomaston, ME 04861

Phone: 594-2200

P.A.W.S. Animal Adoption Center

146 Camden Street, Rockport, ME 04856

Phone: 236-8702

Lincoln County

Lincoln County Animal Shelter

27 Atlantic Hwy, Edgecomb, ME 04457

Phone: 882-9677

Oxford County

Fur & Feathers

41 Heikkinen Road, Bryant Pond, ME 04220

Phone: 674-3088

Harvest Hills Animal Shelter

Rte 302, Fryeburg, Maine 04037

Phone: 935-4358

Lazy L Kennel

188 Scribner Hill Road, Otisfield, ME 04270

Phone: 539-9188

Long Journey to a New Beginning Animal Rescue **Phone:** 697-2299

212 Meadow Road, Stow, ME

McKennel's Animal Adoption Agency

88 Hall Hill Road, Rumford, ME 04276

Phone: 364-7176

Responsible Pet Care

132 Waterford Road, Norway, ME 04268

Phone: 743-8679

Penobscot County

Animal Orphanage

Airport Road, Old Town, ME 04468

Phone: 827-8777

Bangor Humane Society

693 Mt Hope Ave., Bangor, ME 04401

Phone: 942-8902

Biscuit Ridge Farm

5 Hesseltine Way, Milford, ME 04461

Phone: 949-1582

Brewer Veterinary Clinic

111 Pierce Road Brewer, ME 04412

Phone: 989-6531

Little Wanderers Animal Adoption

Rt. 43, 383 Corinth Road, Hudson, ME 04449

Phone: 327-1422

Morse's Feline Rescue Foundation

16 ½ Pine St, Milford, ME 04461

Phone: 947-0333

Penobscot Valley Humane Society

1 Park Avenue, Lincoln, ME 04457

Phone: 794-3457

Pet Motel

534 Dexter Road, Corinna, ME 04928

Phone: 275-2800

Samsara Exotic Animal Refuge

1356 Country Road, Greenfield Twp, ME

Phone: 478-4978

Tykenbay Acres

309 Old Country Road, Etna, ME 04434

Phone: 269-3939

Piscataquis County

Foxcroft Veterinary Services, PA

Rte 7 Dexter Road, Dover-Foxcroft, ME 04426

Phone: 564-2144

Penquis Animal Welfare Sanctuary

39 Clinton St, Milo, ME 04463

Phone: 943-2324

Sagadahoc County

Coastal Maine Great Dane Rescue

9 Ladyslipper Lane, Topsham, ME 04086

Phone: 729-0679

Somerset County

Moose River Animal Shelter

724 Main St., Moose River, ME 04945

Phone: 668-5761

Siesta Sanctuary

104 Brown Road, Harmony, ME 04942

Phone: 683-6322

Somerset Humane Society

Middle Road, Skowhegan, ME 04976

Phone: 474-6493

Companion Animals

Waldo County

Maine Coast Animal Rescue

66 Atlantic Highway, Northport, ME 04849

Phone: 789-5700

Townline Animal Shelter

46 Baker Road, Belfast, ME 04915

Phone: 338-1403

Washington County

Ark Animal Shelter

60 Barber Lane, Cherryfield, ME

Phone: 546-3484

Baileyville Animal Holding Facility

Dump Road, Baileyville, ME

Phone: 427-6992

PAWS Brave-Hearts

368 South St, Calais, ME

Phone: 454-7662

Perry Animal Holding Facility

Rte 1 (Behind municipal building), Perry, ME 04667

Phone: 853-4161

SOS-Lubec ME Give US a Chance Shelter

67 Water Street, Lubec, ME 04652

Phone: 733-2153

York County

Alpha Dog Rescue

252 North Rochester Road, Lebanon, ME 04027

Phone: (603) 970-0516

Animal Welfare Society

Old Holland Road, West Kennebunk, ME 04094

Phone: 985-3244

Berwick Animal Shelter

63 Blackberry Hill Road, Berwick, ME 03901

Phone: 698-4580

Doggie Cottage

81 Holmes Road, Scarborough, ME 04074

Phone: 883-1914

Ferret Rescue of Maine

429 Parker Farm Road, Buxton, ME 04093

Phone: 423-2297

Kittery Animal Hospital, Inc.

195 State Road, Kittery, ME 03904

Phone: 439-6674

New England Lab Rescue

43 Main St., Limerick, ME 04048

Phone: 615-3126

Old Orchard Beach Animal Shelter

1 Portland Ave, Old Orchard Beach, ME 04064

Phone: 934-4911

Safe Haven Humane Society

1616 Post Road, Wells, ME 04090

Phone: 985-8781

Exotic Birds

Seymour's Bird Refuge

6 Forest Lake Road, West Cumberland, ME 04021

Phone: 829-5752

Feral Cats

Animal Welfare Society/The Cleo Fund

Old Holland Road, West Kennebunk, ME 04094

Phone: 985-3244

Friends of Feral Felines

651 Forest Avenue, Portland, ME 04101

Phone: 797-3014

Web site: www.feralfelines.net/

Emergency Veterinary Clinics

Animal Emergency Clinic

739 Warren Avenue, Portland, ME 04104

Phone: 878-3121

Animal Emergency Clinic of Mid-Maine

37 Strawberry Ave., Lewiston, ME 04252

Phone: 878-3121

Eastern Maine Emergency Clinic

15 Dirigo Dr., Brewer, ME 04412

Phone: 989-6267

New Hampshire

Port City Veterinary Referral Hospital

215 Commerce Way, Portsmouth, NH 03801

Phone: (603) 433-0056

Poison Control

If you believe that your animal has been poisoned, call your local veterinarian immediately. Signs of poisoning include: listlessness, abdominal pain, vomiting, diarrhea, muscle tremors, lack of coordination and/or fever among others.

If you are unable to get emergency assistance from a local veterinarian call the **ASPCA Poison Control Center at 1-888-426-4435**. The Center operates a hotline 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. There may be a consultation fee (\$65) so you will need to provide your name and credit card number. For free basic information about poison emergencies for companion animals call the **Northern New England Poison Control Center at 1-800-222-1222**.

Be prepared for their questions by knowing as much information as possible about the species, breed, age, sex, size and weight of the animal you are calling about. Be prepared to describe the symptoms the animal is experiencing and if available, any information on the type of poisonous material, and time when ingested.

For more information, visit the website of the ASPCA Poison Control Center at www.aspca.org.

Companion Animals

Rights of Purchasers of Cats and Dogs

Before you buy a dog from a breeder or pet stores, please consider the many available dogs in Maine animal shelters! If you do purchase a pet, be an informed consumer. Most dogs in pet shops come from puppy mills. Instead of buying a dog from a pet shop or backyard breeder, ask your veterinarian to recommend breeders in your area or contact your local kennel club.

Maine law (7 M.R.S.A. §§ 4151-4163) sets forth consumer rights concerning the sale of dogs and cats. This law gives purchasers of dogs and cats a recourse when the animal they purchase from a pet dealer is either ill at the time of the purchase or dies within a year of purchase due to a disease, an illness, or a congenital or hereditary condition.

To obtain these remedies the purchaser must meet certain notification deadlines. For example, 7 M.R.S.A. § 4155(1) requires the following: “If, within 10 days after receipt of the animal by the purchaser, a veterinarian states in writing that the animal has a health problem that existed in the animal at the time of delivery or if, within one year after receipt of the animal by the purchaser, a veterinarian states in writing that due to a hereditary or congenital defect the animal has died or has a condition that will shorten its life or will require constant treatment during its life, the animal is considered to have been unfit for sale at the time of sale.”

The dealer must also make certain mandatory disclosures to customers. For example, the dealer must provide a summary of the purchaser’s consumer rights under this law and a signed statement that the animal at the time of delivery has no known health problem or a statement disclosing any known health problem (See 7 M.R.S.A. § 4160.)

For more information see “Sale of Dogs and Cats” in the Maine Statutes (7 M.R.S.A. §§ 4151) and/or contact the **State of Maine’s Animal Welfare Program at 287-3846 or 1 877-269-9200**. (When contacting the Animal Welfare Program you may be asked to leave a message. They will call you back!)

Assistance with Paying Vet Bills

If a person is having trouble affording veterinary care the Human Society of the United States recommends the following:

1. If you do not have a credit card, ask your veterinarian if she will allow you to pay on a weekly or monthly basis. Or offer to perform a service for your vet such as cleaning kennels or answering phones. You may also consider getting a second opinion. This means additional expenses but another veterinarian may suggest a less expensive method of treatment. (Also feel free to call different veterinarians to compare prices.) Consider calling the veterinary school closest to Maine, the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University in Massachusetts.
2. Think about ways to raise some extra cash. This could include a bank loan, yard sale, asking your employer for money from friends or family, or even strangers. GiveForward (www.GiveForward.com) enables you to ask for money from friends

and family, or strangers by creating a personal fundraising page to raise funds for medical care for companion animals. GiveForward charges a small percentage of funds raised.

3. If you don't qualify for a credit card or bank loan, you may be able to get an account with CareCredit, a credit card that is specifically for health care expenses, including for companion animals. Care Credit offers a no-interest or low-interest grace period that may help you if you can pay the money back within a few months. Groups like IMOM (In Memory of Magic, www.imom.org), the PetFund and RedRover also allow you to apply for financial aid if you can't afford veterinary care for you companion animal.

4. There are many national animal welfare organizations that provide assistance in paying veterinary bills. Some of these organizations are breed specific or injury-specific. To find these groups go to the web sites of such groups as HSUS, ASPCA, RedRover, PetFund and IMOM.

5. For Assistance with Spay and Neuter Costs – see the next section of this guide.

Low Cost Spay Neuter Services in Maine

Major Free or Cost Spay/Neuter Clinics *(See complete list in next section)*

1) **The Community Spay/Neuter Clinic** (321 Lewiston Road, Topsham) provides free transport to and from the clinic from Augusta, Rockland and Waterville. Special prices for some areas of the state. **Call 721-8395.** Pit bull, pit bull mix special: \$50.

2) There are free and almost free cat spay/neuter programs in Biddeford, Sanford, Springvale, Rockland area and Lewiston/Auburn. Free pit bull spay/neuter program in Lewiston/Auburn. Look for your town or nearby town in the following list.

3) **Clinic at the Animal Refuge League of Greater Portland** — cats and dogs, available to working low income as well as those on public assistance. See Westbrook in the following list.

4) **The Shelter Spay/Neuter Clinic in West Kennebunk**, accepts cats and dogs from anywhere. You do not need to live in the shelter's area. Cat prices range from only \$5, \$20 to \$45. **Call 985-3244.**

Help Fix ME Program

Maine now has a special fund to assist low income Mainers prevent pet overpopulation by spaying and neutering their pets. The Help Fix Me program is administered by the Maine Department of Agriculture's Animal Welfare Program. You may be eligible for the States low cost spay/neuter program if you have a household income of less than 133% of the Federal poverty level, or if you receive or are eligible for one or more of the following programs: Food Stamps, TANF, SSI, SSDI or MaineCare. Help Fix Me provides vouchers to receive spay/neutering services at local veterinarian clinics. Currently vouchers are limited to cats (including feral cats cared for by indi-

Companion Animals

viduals not organizations), pit bulls and pit bull mixes because those are the animals filling shelters. The cost is \$10 to spay or neuter a cat and \$20 for a pit bull or pit bull mix. **Call 1-800-367-1317** or go to the State of Maine's Animal Welfare Program web page. If you have a problem with a Help Fix ME, please E-mail Liam.Hughes@maine.gov

Animal Welfare Society (AWS) / Cleo Fund

AWS, through the Cleo Fund, works with veterinarians across the state of Maine to offer a voucher program for reduced-cost surgeries. **Call 467-8135** for more information.

Alphabetical list of low cost spay/neuter programs

Arroostook County: See The Cleo Fund above.

Call: 773-6221

Auburn: *Dr. Steve Kinney's Low-Income Cat Spay/Neuter Clinic* is located at Auburn Animal Center.

Call to schedule: 784-2000

See also: **Greater Androscoggin Humane Society, in the Lewiston-Auburn Area**

Augusta: East Coast Shelter Clinic. Low cost spay/neuter for cats and dogs. Cat spay \$75, neuter \$60. Rabies vaccine included if needed. Some other services besides spay/neuter available. Clinic does not take vouchers.

Call for appointments and details: 626-2893

Augusta, Thomaston and Waterville areas: Free transport for cats and dogs to and from the Community Spay-Neuter Clinic in Topsham.

Call: 721-8395

Bangor: Bangor Humane Society has a very good voucher program for both cats and dogs.

Call for details: 942-8902

Bar Harbor: See **Trenton**

Biddeford: Very low cost spay/neuter program for cats and dogs.

Call the Animal Welfare Society: 985-3244, ext 120

Bridgton: Affordable Spay & Neuter Clinic

Call for prices: 583-2121

Bridgton/Brownfield: See **Western Maine**

Caribou area: Halfway Home Pet Rescue spay/neuter assistance. Cats only. For low income residents of the Caribou area who do not qualify for Help Fix ME.

Call or e-mail: 999-1722 or norma@halfwayhomepetrescue.org

Cherryfield: See **Washington and Hancock counties**

Corinna: See **Dover-Foxcroft**

Cumberland and York Counties: The Cleo Fund. \$30 for cats and \$50 for dogs. (No purebreds, designer or purchased dogs. Pit bulls are eligible.) Includes rabies vaccine. Low income only. Ask about Cleo Fund vouchers.

Call: 773-6221

Dover-Foxcroft/Milo/Exeter/Dexter area: P.E.T.S. low cost spay/neuter assistance for both cats and dogs. Also, monthly cat spay/neuter transport van to and from spay/neuter clinic. Ask about Cleo Fund vouchers.

Call: 564-8092 or 773-6221

Ellsworth: See **Trenton**

Farmington area: Cat spays \$35, cat neuters \$35. Book early as the shelter has limited grant money for these prices.

Call the Franklin County Animal Shelter: 778-2638

Farmington/Franklin County area and other areas: Maine Woods

Mobile Vet: Low-income low cost spay/neuter clinics for cats and male dogs. Will do feral cat colonies and pediatric spay/neuter (8 weeks old). Individuals call for locations of clinics. Shelters and rescues call to schedule clinics. Will do clinics in the northern counties.

Call: 491-5501

Ft. Kent area: Cat spays and neuters. Call between 8 AM and 8 PM. Must be from one of these towns: Ft. Kent, Frenchville, Madawaska, Eagle Lake, Wallagrass, St. John, St. Agatha, St. Francis, Soldier Pond, New Canada, Cross Lake, Allagash.

Call PAWS: 543-7348

Freeport: Community spay/neuter clinic in Topsham.

Call: 721-8395

Fryeburg: Low-income cat spay/neuter clinic once per month.

Call the Harvest Hills Animal Shelter: 935-4358

Hancock and Washington counties only: The Ark in Cherryfield. A Stitch in Time Program. Low-income spay/neuter assistance only. Cats and dogs.

Call: 546-3484

Houlton area: Call the Cleo Fund.

Call: 773-6221

Lewiston-Auburn Area: Greater Androscoggin Humane Society FREE:

Cat, kitten, pit bull and pit bull mixes. Year round: Mother cat and dog programs and other assistance. Call the shelter for details. These Greater Androscoggin Humane Society programs are open to citizens living in the following communities: Auburn, Canton, Durham, Greene, Hebron, Lewiston, Lisbon, Livermore, Livermore Falls, Mechanic Falls, Minot, New Gloucester, Poland, Sabattus, Turner, Wales.

Call: 783-2311

Companion Animals

Milo: see Dover-Foxcroft.

Mount Desert Island: See Trenton.

Newport: see Dover-Foxcroft.

Norway: Well Point Veterinary Service at 86 Roberts Road in Norway. Low cost cat spaying and neutering. No income requirements. Female cats \$60, males \$40. A current rabies vaccine is required or one will be given to the cat at an additional charge of \$15.

Call: 743-6441

Norway: Kind Animal Care. Don McLean, DVM Cats: \$60 female, \$30 male. Dogs: neuters only. Prices range from \$120-\$150 depending on weight. Rabies vaccines available.

Call: 890-4987

Oxford County: Special Cleo Fund grant.

Call: 773-6221

Portland area: See **Westbrook, Animal Refuge League.**

Rockland/Thomaston area: Free transport for cats, small and medium dogs from the **Pope Memorial Humane Society of Knox County** to the Community Spay/Neuter Clinic. The shelter has a voucher program for the 20 towns the shelter serves, \$25 off a neuter and \$50 off a spay.

Call: Community Spay/Neuter Clinic at 721-8395 to book an appointment and the Shelter at 594-2200 for a voucher to use at the Spay/Neuter Clinic.

Rockland area: Margo Maloney, DVM. Cats only.

Call: 557-5669

Sanford/Springvale: Low cost spay/neuter for cats and dogs available.

Call the Animal Welfare Society: 985-3244, ext 120

Scarborough/Gorham area: Tender Touch Veterinary Hospital.

Groovy Tuesdays for cats: males \$55, females \$95. Includes rabies and distemper vaccines. Precious Pits to spay/neuter pit bulls: males \$110, females \$150, includes rabies and distemper vaccines.

Call: 839-7456

South Paris: Responsible Pet Care offers spay/neuter assistance.

Call: 743-8679

South Portland: Cats and dogs—no income requirements. Cat spays and neuters \$60. Includes pediatric (8 weeks old), pregnant and feral spay/neuter. Dog spays and neuters—must be equal to or less than 4 months of age males \$85, females \$120.

Call South Portland Veterinary Hospital: 767-7784

Topsham: Low-cost dog and cat spaying and neutering at the Community Spay/Neuter Clinic.

Call: 721-8395

Trenton: The SPCA of Hancock County has low-income assistance for cats and dogs.

Call the SPCA PAL Program: 667-8088

Washington and Hancock counties only: The Ark in Cherryfield. A Stitch in Time Program. Low-income spay/neuter assistance only. Cats and dogs.

Call: 546-3484

Waterville: Free transport for cats and small/medium dogs to and from the Community Spay/Neuter Clinic in Topsham.

Call: 721-8395

Waterville area: The Humane Society the Waterville Area provides vouchers to assist with the cost of spaying/neutering any cat or dog. You must live in one of the shelter's contracted towns and have a household income at 200% of the federal poverty level or below. Vouchers are \$25 for neuters and \$50 for spays. The vouchers can be used at veterinary hospital of your choice.

Call: 873-2430 for details and vouchers

Westbrook: Clinic at the Animal Refuge League. Low cost, low-income (including working low-income) spay/neuter clinic for cats, dogs and rabbits. Call for exact income guidelines and to make an appointment.

Call: 854-9771 extension 400 (you may have to leave a message)

West Kennebunk: Animal Welfare Society (AWS) Shelter Spay/Neuter Clinic. Cats and dogs. This clinic is not restricted to cats or dogs from any geographical area.

Call: 985-3244 ext. 120

Western Maine: Special Cleo Fund grant for cats from Oxford County, \$20, ferals free.

Call the Cleo Fund: 773-6221

Western Maine/Conway, NH area: Cat and dog spays and neuters through the **Rozzie May Animal Alliance in Conway, NH.** Mobile cat clinic for Maine (Brownfield and Bridgton) and for NH (Meredith, Dover, Berlin, Wakefield and North Conway).

Call or e-mail: 603-447-1373, www.rozziemay.org

York County:

Call the Animal Welfare Society: 985-3244

Confused? Want a phone call? E-mail your phone number to Susan Hall of **Spay-Maine:** shall1@maine.rr.com. SpayMaine will call you to help you find a spay/neuter program.

Finding A Lost Companion Animal

(From the web site of PETA.)

- 1) File “missing” reports at veterinarians’ offices, the police department, and animal control. Follow up in person to make sure that a case of mistaken identity is not hampering a reunion with your companion animal.
- 2) Comb the neighborhood, paying special attention to spaces under porches, shrubs, and cars, as well as sheds, drain pipes, and other hiding places that might attract your frightened friend. Cover at least a 2-mile radius.
- 3) Ask delivery persons in your neighborhood if they have seen your animal running at large.
- 4) Post “missing” fliers, including a current photo that accurately portrays your companion animal—do not use one that is dated and misrepresents his or her appearance. At the top of your flier, write “REWARD,” and at the bottom list your home, work, and cell phone numbers.
 - Keep the description vague or you may cause someone who has seen or rescued your animal to assume that he or she is not your lost friend. For example, many lost animals lose their collars—someone might think that your dog isn’t the one on the poster simply because he or she is no longer wearing a red collar.
 - Do not list the animal’s name or behavioral traits. Lost animals often do not respond to their names or may behave differently when they are frightened.
 - Don’t hint that you think your friend has been stolen, i.e., don’t say, “No questions asked,” as it may discourage a rescuer from calling, worried that he or she will be accused of theft.
 - Post your fliers at veterinary offices, animal control, pet and grooming shops, dog parks, schools, libraries, grocery stores—any place that displays a public bulletin board. Use sturdy tape or staples to place them on utility poles at busy intersections (you may wish to check with the utilities department to find out if such postings are legal). You’ll need plenty of copies of your flier—plan to put up 200 posters the first day.
- 5) Visit your local animal shelter and animal control departments every day in person to see if your nonhuman friend has been turned in. Do not be satisfied with telephone inquiries. Shelters receive dozens of animals every day—and the staff person who answers your phone call may have missed seeing your friend come into the facility.
- 6) Place “lost” advertisements in all the local and weekly newspapers. Many publications will place such ads free of charge. Check the “found” ads every day.
- 7) If two weeks pass, update your flier. A rain-soaked, tattered flier can look months old to someone who might think the animal on your flier is long gone and can’t be the same animal he or she has just rescued from busy traffic.

8) Don't give up. It's not uncommon for lost companion animals and their guardians to be reunited weeks or even months after becoming lost. It can be frustrating, but your perseverance will increase your chances of finding your lost friend.

National Resources:

AKC Companion Animal Recovery: 1-800-252-7894

Tatoo-A-Pet: 1-800-828-8667

Find Toto: www.findtoto.com

Protecting Companion Animals from Domestic Violence

Often victims of domestic violence are afraid to leave their abusive homes because they do not want to leave their companion animals behind. More and more resources are now becoming available to help victims make sure their animals do not have to be left behind. Please call your local animal shelter (see our list beginning on page 10) or domestic violence advocacy group (call 211 to find a local advocacy group) to find out if there is a program available to help you make temporary arrangements for your animals.

Maine law gives judges the statutory authority to make orders with respect to the "care, custody and control of any animal owned, possessed, leased, kept or held by either party or a minor child residing in the household." Maine law also includes animals in its criminal stalking laws. A person is guilty of stalking if he/she intentionally engages in a course of conduct directed at another person that reasonably causes that other person to fear injury to or death of an animal owned by or in the possession or control of the other person. These laws recognize the importance of animals in the lives of victims of family violence.

Safety Planning for Companion Animals of Domestic Violence Victims from the Animal Welfare Institute

If you are planning on staying...

- Keep emergency provisions for your animal in case your abuser withholds money
- Keep the phone number of the nearest 24 hour emergency vet clinic
- Establish ownership of your animal by creating a paper trail (e.g. obtain a license, have vet records put in your name)

If you are planning on leaving...

- Obtain safe emergency shelter for your animals somewhere that won't be disclosed to your abuser (e.g. veterinarian, friend, family, or a shelter that accepts animals such as Spruce Run in Bangor 1-800-863-9909, The Next Step in Ellsworth 1-800-315-5579, Family Crisis Services in Portland 874-1973, New Hope for Women in Rockland 1-800-522-3304 and Caring Unlimited in Sanford 1-800-239-7298).

Companion Animals

- Pack a bag for your animal that includes food, medicine, documents of ownership (receipts from adoption or purchase of animal, license to establish ownership), health documents (vet or vaccine records), leash, ID and rabies tag, carrier, toys and bedding.

If you must leave without your animal, leave enough food, fresh bedding, litter...

- keep animals indoors if possible, don't let an animal outdoors alone, pick a safe route and time to walk your animal, don't exercise or walk alone, and change your veterinarian.

From the People's Law of Maryland, Ahimsa House

Benefits of Licensing Your Dog

Dogs must be licensed annually. Proof of current rabies vaccination must be provided. Licenses can be purchased from your town clerk and in some areas are available online. The Animal Welfare Program with the Maine Department of Agriculture is the state agency that investigates complaints about animal abuse, neglect and cruelty. Dog license fees are a significant portion of the agency's funding. Compliance with the dog licensing requirements will help the agency continue its important work and enable it to investigate complaints, train staff and educate the public on animal welfare issues.

Humane Dog Trainers

The Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers (CCPDT) is an international testing and certification program for professional dog trainers. The CCPDT's certification program is based on humane training practices and the latest scientific knowledge related to dog training. Competence and continued growth in training practices is promoted through the recertification of qualification of qualified professionals. To find humane dog trainers in Maine go to www.ccpdt.org.

Traveling with Companion Animals

Plan ahead when traveling with animals. For useful information see the **Humane Society of the United States'** article entitled **Travel Safely with your Pet by Car, Airplane, Ship:** www.humanesociety.org/animals/resources/tips/traveling_tips_pets_ships_planes_trains.htm

Also for a directory of pet friendly hotels see www.travelpets.com.

Planning for a Disaster

HSUS's To-Do list for Protecting your Companion Animals in a Disaster:

1. *Start getting ready now.* Make sure that your cat or dog is wearing a collar and identification that is up to date and visible at all times. Put your cell number on your animal's tag. If lost, having them microchipped increases the chances of being reunited. Have a disaster kit of food, water and medicine for your animal. Also for cats include litter, a box, and bags. Have current photos to help identify lost animals.
2. *If you evacuate, take your animal.* Evacuate early. Find a safe place to stay ahead of time. Before disaster hits call your local office of emergency management to see if you will be allowed to evacuate with your animals and that there will be shelters that take people and their animals in your area. Find an animalfriendly hotel or an animal-friendly safe place for your family and animals. A disaster or evacuation order may come when you are not home so make arrangements for a trusted neighbor or nearby friend or family member to take your animals.
3. *If you stay at home do it safely.* Identify a safe area of your home where you can all stay together and make it animal friendly.

Bereavement of a Companion Animal

There are several good organizations with Web sites devoted to easing the loss of a companion animal. Here are two:

The Association for Pet Loss and Bereavement, Inc.

P.O. Box 106, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11230

Phone: 1-718-382-0690

Web site: www.aplb.org

University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine Pet Loss Helpline

Helpline: 1-877-394-2273

The University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine offers free support to all grieving individuals. Leave a message on the answering machine. Calls will be returned 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Central Time, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays.

Web site: www.cvm.edu/CARE/

To Report Abuse or an Emergency

Maine's Animal Welfare Program/To Report Abuse

The Animal Welfare Program (AWP) is part of the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and based in Augusta. The program assigns humane agents to the various districts in Maine to investigate complaints of suspected abuse, neglect and cruelty. To report abuse, neglect or cruelty, contact:

Maine Animal Welfare Program

28 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0028

Phones: 287-3846, 1-877-269-9200 (*Leave a message and they will call back*)

E-mail: animal.welfare@maine.gov

Web site: www.maine.gov/agriculture/aw/index.html

For emergencies after business hours call your local law enforcement or 866-2121.

If you have a complaint about any State of Maine Humane Agent, contact the Department of Agriculture at 287-3871.

Animal Control

Animal Control Officers are employed by municipalities to enforce municipal animal control duties under Maine Law. To locate your animal control officer, contact your local police department, town clerk, or town office. Animal Control Officers may also handle animal cruelty, neglect or abuse complaints.

If you have a complaint about an Animal Control Officer in his or her performance of duties, contact your local town officials or police department as Animal Control Officers are employed by the local municipality and not the State Animal Welfare Program.

Emergencies

For emergency (non-wildlife) animal welfare complaints, contact your local Animal Control Officer or police department or the **Animal Welfare Program in Augusta at 1-877-269-9200 or 287-3846**. If you wish to contact the Animal Welfare Program after hours, call (207) 866-2121. To report a wildlife emergency, see page 8 of this guide.

Animal Welfare Laws

Maine's Animal Welfare Laws (civil) can be found in Title 7 of the Maine Revised Statutes. Maine's Animal Welfare laws (criminal) can be found in Title 17 of the Maine Revised Statutes. The State of Maine publishes the Animal Welfare Law Book and it can be purchased from the Animal Welfare Program (**Call 287-3846**). It is also available free online.

Good sources of animal laws throughout the United States is Michigan State University School of Law's Animal Legal and Historical Center at www.animallaw.info/ and the Animal Legal Defense Fund's webpage www.aldf.org/resources/

Public Accommodations (restaurants, hotels, stores, etc.) and Service Dogs

For public accommodations (restaurants, hotels, stores, etc.) **a service animal is a dog** that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual or other mental disability. Other species of animals, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained, are not service animals for the purposes of this definition. The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the individual's disability.

Examples of such work or tasks include, but are not limited to, assisting an individual who is totally or partially blind with navigation and other tasks, alerting an individual who is deaf or hard of hearing to the presence of people or sounds, providing nonviolent protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, assisting an individual during a seizure, alerting an individual to the presence of allergens, retrieving items such as medicine or a telephone, providing physical support and assistance with balance and stability to an individual with a mobility disability and helping a person with a psychiatric or neurological disability by preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors. The crime deterrent effects of an animal's presence and the provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort or companionship do not constitute work or tasks for the purposes of this definition.

The Maine Human Rights Act (5 M.R.S.A. section 4592, subsection 8) states that it is unlawful for a public accommodation (restaurant, stores, hotels, etc.) to refuse to permit the use of a service animal (dog) or otherwise discriminate against an individual with a physical or mental disability who uses a service animal (dog) at a public accommodation unless it is shown by defense that the service animal (dog) poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others or the use of the service animal (dog) would result in substantially physical damage to the property of others or would substantially interfere with the reasonable enjoyment of the public accommodation.

Fair Housing Laws and Assistance Animals

In 2016 in order to clarify the use of helper animals, the Maine Legislature modified the Maine Human Rights Act to add a new definition – **assistance animal. Assistance animal pertains only to housing and does not have to be a dog.**

An assistance animal is:

- A. An animal (cat, dog, etc.) that has been determined necessary to mitigate the effects of a physical or mental disability by a physician, psychologist, physician assistant, nurse practitioner or licensed social worker or
- B. an animal (cat, dog, etc.) individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a physical or mental disability, including, but not limited to, guiding individuals with impaired vision, alerting individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing to intruders or sounds, providing reasonable protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair or retrieving dropped items.

Service Animals/Marine Animals

Fair Housing Laws and Assistance Animals *(continued)*

The Maine Human Rights Act (5 M.R.S.A. section 4582-A subsection 3) states that it is unlawful housing discrimination for a lessor of property to refuse to permit the use of assistance animals (dogs, cats, etc.) unless it is shown that the assistance animal poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others or the use of the assistance animal would result in substantial physical damage to the property of others or would substantially interfere with the reasonable enjoyment of the housing accommodations of others. The use of an assistance animal may not be conditioned on the payment of a fee or security deposit, although the individual with a physical or mental disability is liable for any damage done to the premises by an assistance animal.

Marine Animals

Maine Marine Animal Reporting Hotline: 1-800-532-9551

The Maine Marine Animal Reporting Hotline is a dedicated toll-free number that receives and directs reports of whales, seals, dolphins, porpoises, and sea turtles. This phone is physically stationed at the Maine Department of Marine Resources in West Boothbay Harbor.

Remember that marine animals are protected by federal law. It is illegal for unauthorized persons to handle or harass them. If you spot a marine mammal in distress in Maine, call the Marine Animal Reporting Hotline. Do not attempt to remove the animal from the area or return it to the water. Seals temporarily leave the water to rest and mothers will briefly leave their crying pups while feeding at sea. If you find a beached whale or dolphin, do not hesitate, report it immediately! Observe the animal from a distance. Marine mammals can inflict serious injury and transmit diseases. Keep people and dogs away. Note the physical characteristics and condition of the animal such as size and color. Is it weak or active? Are there any wounds or bleeding? Determine the exact location of the animal for accurate directions.

Maine-based Animal Advocacy Groups

Maine Animal Coalition, dedicated to the elimination of animal abuse and exploitation through education, advocacy and example.

P.O. Box 6683, Portland, ME 04101

Phone: 773-2215

E-mail: mac@maineanimalcoalition.org

Web site: www.maineanimalcoalition.org

Maine Audubon works to conserve Maine's wildlife and wildlife habitat by engaging people of all ages in education, conservation and action.

20 Gilsland Farm Road, Falmouth, ME 04105

Phone: 781-2330

Web site: www.maineaudubon.org/

Maine Federation of Humane Societies, representing companion animal welfare organizations, humane societies, animal welfare and rescue leagues, animal shelters, and private breed rescue organizations.

E-mail: mfhs01@yahoo.com

Web site: www.mefed.org

Maine Friends of Animals, through legislative action, education, and advocacy, Maine Friends of Animals is dedicated to ending animal cruelty and promoting the humane treatment of animals in Maine.

190 U.S. Route 1, Falmouth, ME 04105

Phone: 781-2187

E-mail: mfoa@maine.rr.com

Web site: www.mfoa.net

Marine Mammals of Maine

P.O. Box 751, Bath, ME 04530

Phone: 800-532-9551

E-mail: contactinfo@mmome.org

Web site: <http://mmome.org>

Spay Maine is a collaboration of Maine's animal shelters, rescues, vets, animal control officers and animal advocates, who work together to reduce Maine's shelter intakes and euthanasia by supporting Help Fix Me and promoting spay neuter clinics and programs around the state.

E-mail: Susan Hall at shall1@maine.rr.com

Web site: www.spaymaine.org/

Wildlife Alliance of Maine, dedicated to advocate on behalf of Maine's wildlife and to promote a conservation ethic that represents non consumptive wildlife users.

96 Harlow Street, 3rd Floor, Suite 1A, Bangor, ME 04401

Phone: 941-9453

Web site: www.wildlifealliancemaine.org

Humane Education/Vivisection/Dissection

Humane Education

Many animal shelters offer humane education programs in their community. Please contact your local shelter for more information on programs available in your area. To learn more about humane education contact:

The Institute for Humane Education

P.O. Box 260, Surry ME 04684

Phone: 667-1025

Web site: www.humaneeducation.org

The National Humane Education Society

P.O. Box 340, Charlestown, WV 25414

Phone: 1 304-725-0506

Web site: www.nhes.org

Maine's Law on Vivisection in Schools

Maine's law on vivisection in schools can be found in the Maine Statutes at 7 M.R.S.A. §3971. Use of live animals is governed by the following law:

“No live vertebrate, except eggs, may be used in kindergarten and grades one to 12 of any public or private school as part of a scientific experiment or for any other purpose in which the animal is experimentally medicated or drugged in a manner to cause painful reactions or to induce painful or lethal pathological conditions, or in which the animal is injured through any other type of treatment, experiment or procedure, including, but not limited to, anesthetization or electric shock or where the normal health of the animal is interfered with or where pain or distress is caused.”

“No person may, in the presence of any student in Kindergarten and grades one to 12, practice vivisection or exhibit a vivisected animal. Dissection of dead animals or any portions of dead animals in schools shall be confined to the classroom and to the presence of students engaged in the study of dissection and shall not be for the purpose of exhibition.”

Maine Student's Right to Alternatives to Dissection

It is the policy of the Maine Department of Education that school administrative units should recognize that students who show a legitimate conscientious, ethical reason not to do dissection should not be required to do so and be offered an alternative assignment.

On January 30, 1990, then Commissioner of Education, Eve M. Bither, issued Informational Letter #49 to Superintendents of Schools stating the following:

As you are aware, based on recent legislative debate and consideration, the issue of allowing students to refuse to do dissection and providing alternative instructions to dissection has reached a high level of awareness and discussion.

Therefore, to accommodate students who request not to do dissections, I am issuing the following advisory for local school administrative unit action:

1. That school administrative units should recognize that students who show a legitimate conscientious, ethical reason not to do dissection should not be required to do so and should be offered an alternative assignment to dissection.

2. That school administrative units should establish a local policy which: a) allows students to refuse to do dissections; b) states that alternative assignments to dissection which meet student needs while at the same time preserve the integrity of the biology program will be provided to students on request; c) makes known that students have an alternative to dissection through such means as course description materials, posters or school announcements; and d) establishes a procedure whereby students may request, and the school may review and approve/disapprove, an alternative.

For more information on alternatives to dissection, contact:

New England Anti-Vivisection Society

Phone: 617-523-6020.

Web site: www.neave.org

Vegetarianism

Presently America produces and slaughters (most often inhumanely) 10 billion animals for food each year. Going vegetarian or reducing meat consumption not only reduces animal suffering, but it also helps the environment, increases the world's food supply, and improves the nation's health.

Animal Agriculture is a major source of water-quality problems in America's rivers and streams. Worldwide, forests, wetlands and wildlife habitats are being destroyed in order to raise farm animals. In a 2006 study the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organization calculated that livestock production causes more greenhouse gases than transportation.

Reducing the number of animals raised for food could also reduce world hunger. The majority of corn and soy grown today is used to produce meat. It takes thirteen pounds of grain to produce one pound of beef. It is more efficient to feed the corn and soy directly to people

A vegetarian diet is generally seen as healthful by nutritionists. Obtaining enough protein is not a problem for most vegetarians or vegans. Currently Americans eat approximately 110 grams of protein a day, which is twice the government recommendation. Almost all foods except for alcohol, sugar and fats are good sources of protein. Nutritionists no longer believe that it is necessary to combine different plant foods to get the full protein value. Even when eating an exclusively plant-based diet, vegans consume enough protein as long as they eat a variety of fruits, vegetables and whole grains.

Reducing meat consumption lowers a person's risk for heart disease, cancer, stroke and other chronic diseases. Forsaking meat reduces a person's risk of food poisoning, which sickens seventy-five thousand Americans each year and kills approximately five thousand.

For additional information see the web site of the Vegetarian Resource Group (www.vrg.org) Also consider attending (in June) Maine Animal Coalition's annual Vegetarian Food Festival in Portland or join the Maine Vegan Meet-Up Group, (www.meetup.com/Meatless-Mainers/), a Maine based vegetarian dine-around.



P.O. Box 6683, Portland, ME 04103

Phone: 207-773-2215

E-mail: mac@maineanimalcoalition.org

Web site: www.maineanimalcoalition.org