

Rescue



Enforce



Educate



DOGS CAME IN READY TO RUN!

FIRST QUARTER IN REVIEW

As 2020 closed out, things were slow here at the Holmes County Dog Warden's Department. In general, the entire year of 2020 was much slower amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Both shelter numbers and patrol numbers were lower across the board. That, in our field and profession, is a good thing! Great work Holmes County! The year 2021 came in like an adolescent untrained Labrador retriever, which for anybody wondering, is another way of saying it was crazy. On January 1st, 2021, things picked up very quickly in the shelter and on patrol. In January and February, our shelter saw over 30 intakes and finished the first quarter with a total of 91 intakes. Those 91 intakes included 71 stray dogs found running at large. The good news is we had 91 outcomes and 89 of those were live releases.

While managing the shelter and picking up strays, the Dog Warden's Office also investigated 53 dog related complaints. These complaints are generally welfare concerns, dogs running at large, dog bites, and licensing issues. This quarter, almost 53% of the complaints our office investigated were complaints involving dogs running at large. Welfare complaints made up approximately 34% of our complaints. With the number of strays picked up significantly increasing this quarter and the number of "dog running at large" complaints increasing significantly, you can say dogs came in to 2021 ready to run. To give you an idea of the increase, last quarter of 2020 our office saw only 61 intakes including only 54 stray dogs. In addition, only 36% of our complaints involved dogs running at large.

In other news the Holmes County Dog Warden's Department welcomed in an adoption application process for 2021. During February it was put into place and is designed to create the best matches possible for our adoptable dogs and our potential adopters. You can fill out an application online at www.holmescountydogwarden.com. While you are on our page, check out all the new updates to our webpage, including a public lost and found board and a resources page for anyone missing a dog.

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The Pawsitive Spot



THE NUMBER OF
RETURN TO
OWNERS FOR THE
FIRST QUARTER
WAS GREATER
THAN THE NUMBER
OF ADOPTIONS!



FOLLOW US ON
SOCIAL MEDIA

IT MAY SEEM HARMLESS BUT DISASTER AWAITS

Dog Warden: “This is the dog warden’s department how can I help you?”

Caller: Hi! I just watched a dog get hit by a truck. It can not move its back end and is crawling on his front legs and trying to cross the road again.

Dog Warden: We will have someone out immediately. Thank you!

The following interaction has become a norm for the Holmes County Dog Warden’s Department in the first quarter of 2021. Although each call brings a different set of circumstances and injuries, they each have the following characteristics in common; an injured or deceased dog, a sad or unhappy dog owner, an Animal Control Officer who must respond, sometimes in the wee hours of the night, and a vet bill. It is important to understand if you allow your dog to roam free and do not train them to recognize their boundaries, this could be your dog. When dogs are allowed by their owners to run at large, unfortunate things are bound to happen.

There are some considerations dog owners should make. If your dog is hit on the roadway and it causes damage to the driver’s vehicle, or injury to the person itself, you could be held liable. If your dog is running at large and causes damage to another person’s properties such as livestock, buildings, etc. you could be held liable. The Holmes County Dog Warden’s Department has seen up to \$7,000 ordered for restitution by the court in just one case where a dog owner was cited for allowing his or her dogs to run at large. The phrase, “My dog would never do something like that”, may apply to you today, but what about tomorrow? Dogs can be unpredictable and under the right circumstances can do things that they may not normally do. For the health and safety of your dog and the health and safety of yourself and others, make sure you are following Ohio’s dog confinement laws under Ohio Revised Code Section 955.22.

Reporting a dog running at large may seem like a bad thing to do when it is your neighbor, but it could protect your fellow citizens and prevent trouble for the dog and its owner in the future. For example, you drive by a home each day and each day the same dog runs out on to the road chasing your car. You decide not to report it because you do not want to start trouble. One day a stranger comes through the area and the dog runs out after his/her car. Thinking they are going to hit the dog they move over and hit a mailbox and ditch their car. Meanwhile the dog returns to its home. Had the dog owner been warned about the dog’s behavior this incident could have been prevented. It is just something to consider when trying to decide what action to take. At the Dog Warden’s Department, we see so many cases that come in after something terrible has happened and the caller establishes a history of bad habits from the dog and its owner. When dog owners fail to address minor issues, it may end up causing major issues in the future, like citations and the designation of your dog as dangerous under O.R.C 955.222. The Holmes County Dog Warden’s Department exists to protect our citizens and the dogs of Holmes County. To do our best we need help from the community and the dog owners of the county.



This sweet Golden Retriever was struck by a vehicle and had a fractured leg earlier this year. She was sent to Golden Retrievers in Need.

Ohio Revised Code Spotlight

O.R.C 955.22

(C) Except when a dog is lawfully engaged in hunting and accompanied by the owner, keeper, harborer, or handler of the dog, no owner, keeper, or harborer of any dog shall fail at any time to do either of the following:(1) Keep the dog physically confined or restrained upon the premises of the owner, keeper, or harborer by a leash, tether, adequate fence, supervision, or secure enclosure to prevent escape;(2) Keep the dog under the reasonable control of some person.



COMMUNITY



PAWSGIVING A HUGE SUCCESS FOR THE SHELTER

Each year several businesses in Millersburg including Subway, Sherwin Williams, Park National Bank, and with the help of Millersburg Elementary, run a Pawsgiving donation drive to help collect items needed by the Dog Warden's Department such as leashes, collars, toys, treats, and supplies. The last drive looked a little different due to COVID-19 changing the way things could be done, but it did not change the results of the drive and may have even increased the participation. The Dog Warden's Department was able to stuff one of its cruisers completely full of donations. Make sure to thank those participating businesses and Millersburg Elementary for supporting their local animal shelter and showering the shelter dogs with love and kindness.



ITEMS DONATED

Leashes: 143	Collars: 161	Harnesses: 27
Treats: 279 Box/Bag	Toys: 239	Other: 139 +

DELIQUENT LICENSE REMINDERS

In the next few weeks Holmes County Residents should receive a reminder in the mail to purchase their 2021 dog license if they have not already. State law does require every dog over the age of 3 months be registered. Officers will be following up on those delinquents in person beginning in May of 2021. To date, Holmes County has 916 dogs that have not been registered. Anyone found without a current dog license could be subject to a citation that could cost them up to \$150. Tags can be purchased online at www.holmescountydogwarden.com, or in person at the Holmes County Dog Warden's Department or the Holmes County Auditor's Office. To make updates to your account please call the Dog Warden at 330-674-6301 or the Holmes County Auditor at 330-674-1896. Remember, if you have a dog that passed away or a dog that you no longer own it will show as a delinquent unless you update your account.



HOLMES COUNTY DOG WARDEN'S
DEPT. AND ADOPTION CENTER

4/1/2021

2021 FIRST QUARTER