



County Corner

www.co.flathead.mt.us

Flathead County Animal Control

It is the mission of the Flathead County Animal Control to provide the citizens of Flathead County public safety through enforcement of the Animal Control Ordinance; to prevent injury and illness through rabies control and licensing; offer protection to loss and damages through education and enforcement of the Animal Control Ordinance and to provide temporary housing of stray and unwanted animals in a humane and cost-efficient manner.

Our department's staff of ten includes the director, four Animal Control officers, three shelter and office staff and a veterinarian and a veterinarian technician. The animals under our care require care seven days a week and the Animal Control officers



The friendly, helpful staff at the Flathead Animal Control.

Animal Control Director for Flathead County RICHARD STOCKDALE



Richard Stockdale has been in the Animal Control field since 1985. He was an Animal Control Officer in Eldorado County, Northern California for six years before relocating to Montana. He has been the Animal Control Director for Flathead County since May 1992. He is a past president and board member of the Montana Animal Care Association and is a current National Disaster Animal Relief Team (D.A.R.T.) member. After Hurricane Ivan in 2004 he responded to the Orange Beach and Gulf Shores of Alabama as a relief worker. Animals have been a large part of Richard's life in one form or another since childhood.

respond 24/7 to emergency calls, such as injured stray animals and stray dog bites. Last year the Animal Control shelter housed and cared for 1,663 dogs and 1,165 cats. We responded to 1,851 animal-related complaints from July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006.

Animal Control is located at 225 Cemetery Road in Kalispell. We are open to the public from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. We accept both stray animals and owner-surrendered animals. There is no fee to surrender an animal. Stray dogs are held for three business days to give an owner an opportunity to locate their pet; after which time they are placed for adoption if not claimed.

All of our adoptable pets are available for viewing in person at the shelter or on the internet. The website is: "<http://montanapets.org/fcac/index.html>"

We are excited to announce that very shortly we will be spaying and neutering all of our animals prior to adoption. The new fees for adoption will be \$65.00 for dogs and \$45.00 for cats. We have purchased a 28-foot trailer including a surgery table and light, a surgery prep tub and a bank of recovery kennels using monies from donations and bequests. We were awarded a grant from the Meacham Memorial Foundation which we used to purchase an autoclave for this spay and neuter program. All spay and neuter surgeries will take place in the trailer and it will also house animals in recovery. We have hired Sandy Anderson as our new veterinarian and

are very excited about having her on board. We are hoping that, in time, our new program will help cut down the numbers of stray and unwanted animals in the community.

Animal Control officers are available to provide education in classrooms, at home association meetings, and also in the form of guided tours through the Animal Control facility. The Animal Control Ordinance can be obtained on the county web page at www.co.flathead.mt.us or by picking up a copy at the Animal Control facility.

Last year we utilized over 1700 hours of Court-ordered community service help to assist in the care and feeding of the animals. Volunteers are always welcome to come and spend time with the animals under our care. We have gift certificates available through the holiday season for the prospective pet adopter in your life. Please remember to spay and neuter your pet and keep identification on them at all times. During the winter season it is important to remember to keep fresh water for your pets, be aware of the cold temperatures, and make sure outdoor animals have adequate shelter from the elements. It is also important during the holidays to make sure and keep chocolate and Poinsettias away from your pets as they are poisonous to them.

"You can judge the heart of a man by his treatment of animals."

~ Immanuel Kant

"The needs of the future take precedence over the demands of the present."

— County Commissioners: Bob Watne, Gary Hall & Joe Brenneman