BE A RESPONSIBLE GOOD NEIGHBOR:

- Control dogs with the proper leash or at heel.
- Only allow a person physically capable of restraining a dog to be in control of the dog.
- Do not allow dogs/pets to run at large.
- Clean up immediately after your pet on your property as well as public and others’ property.
- Do not allow a dog to cause a disturbance by continual howling or barking.
- Report dog/animal bites immediately.
- Provide proper food and care for your pets.
- Do not leave unattended pets secured outside for significant amounts of time.

DID YOU KNOW?

Some peoples’ tolerance for dogs or other pets might be considerably lower than that of the pet owner. To the pet owner, frequent barking or an animal that is allowed to roam freely might not be considered a nuisance. But to the person who is afraid of animals, awakened by the barking of a neighbor’s dog, or who is concerned their children or pet might be attacked by an animal, these concerns may be valid.

Included in this brochure is information on commonly asked questions regarding animal control. A complete listing of applicable ordinances relating to animals may be found at the City of McHenry website at www.ci.mchenry.il.us in the Municipal Code, Chapter 6, Articles I and II; and the McHenry County Department of Health/Animal Control Division website at www.mcdh.info or by calling Animal Control at 815-459-6222.
ANIMAL LICENSES AND POLICIES

These regulations* are intended to prevent pets from becoming public nuisances and to control diseases these animals are capable of transmitting to humans. By following the simple rules outlined in this brochure you will be promoting responsible pet ownership and also be considerate of your neighbors and the McHenry community.

Public Nuisance Animal
Any animal that unreasonably annoys humans, endangers persons or other animals, or interferes with the rights of citizens, including:
- Repeatedly running at large
- Dog or cat in a park or recreational area without a leash or similar restraint
- Animal that soils, damages or defecates on other’s property without proper clean up by the pet owner
- Animals making disturbing noises including continual howling or barking causing a disturbance or discomfort to neighbors
- Animal that causes unsanitary conditions or offensive odors in the area where the animal is kept
- Any animal, whether or not on the owner’s property, that without provocation molests, attacks, or otherwise interferes with the freedom of movement of persons in a public right of way

If you have problems with neighbors abiding by the animal ordinance please call Jean Headley at 815-363-2181 between 8am – 5pm Monday through Friday or call the McHenry Police non-emergency number 815-363-2200 after hours and on weekends.

Dog Licenses/Rabies Vaccinations
All dogs, four months or older, must be registered with the McHenry County Department of Health. Proof of vaccination is required.

Animal Bites
All animal bites must be reported to the McHenry Police Department at 815-363-2200 and the McHenry County Department of Health at 815-459-6222.

Keeping Numerous Animals
It is unlawful to keep dogs, cats or other animals in such large numbers which can reasonably be construed to be a threat to health and well being of the animals or a threat to public health or safety. The City of McHenry limits dogs to 3 total per residence.

SANITATION

No owner or custodian shall allow an animal to soil public or private property unless the feces or waste is immediately removed and properly disposed of.

Caring for Animals
Owners or custodians will provide animals with sufficient nutritious food, veterinary care and humane care and treatment. Animals will not be unnecessarily exposed to hot, cold or inclement weather.

Keeping of Exotic or Wild Animals
It is unlawful to own, harbor or permit at large any exotic or wild animal.

Restraint and Confinement
Animals are not allowed to run at large: Dogs that are off an owner or custodian’s property must be secured with a leash or shall be at heel. The owner or custodian of any animal must exercise proper care and control to prevent that animal from causing harm or becoming a public nuisance.

* These regulations, and other regulations pertaining to animals, can be found in the McHenry Municipal Code, Chapter 6, entitled Animals and Fowl.

Complete information on applicable ordinances is available from the McHenry Police Department or online at www.ci.mchenry.il.us.

This brochure is intended to be a guide for being a responsible pet owner and a considerate neighbor regarding your pet.