

NEWS RELEASE: Dec. 30, 2011

Greene County resumes limited animal control services Jan. 1

As of Jan. 1, Greene County will resume limited animal control service in unincorporated Greene County, including the urban areas outside of Springfield City Limits.

The Greene County Sheriff's Office will **only respond** to reports of animal bites and nuisance or vicious dogs. The Sheriff's Office **will not respond** to calls for service involving dogs roaming free, or "dogs-at-large." These services were all previously provided by the Springfield-Greene County Health Department.

To report an animal bite or a nuisance or vicious dog in unincorporated Greene County, **call 9-1-1**. Initial response will come from the Sheriff's Office, with support provided by the Greene County Planning & Zoning Office.

In 2007, Greene County entered into agreement with the Health Department to expand the City of Springfield's animal control services into the urbanized areas outside city limits. In December 2011, more than \$76,000 in funding for this service was cut from the county's 2012 Budget, along with more than \$1.4 million in cuts made to balance the county's budget. The cut resulted in the termination of the city-county agreement and the elimination of an animal control officer position from the Health Department.

Because of budget constraints, Greene County is now only able to provide animal control services required by state statute, including RSMo. 578.012 — Animal abuse, and RSMo. Chapter 322 — Protection Against Rabies. Greene County has no staff, equipment or facilities to pick up abandoned animals, and animals from Greene County will not be accepted at the City animal shelter. Residents are encouraged to contact local animal rescue organizations for unwanted animals which do not pose a public safety threat.

For more information, call the Greene County Sheriff's Office at 417-868-4040, or Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Greene County Public Information Officer, at 417-829-6019 or 417-224-5510.

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