



WHEN ANIMAL CONTROL KNOCKS AT YOUR DOOR

**Make sure you know the law in your area!
Is there a warrantless search and seizure law in your area?
Or
Does animal control require a warrant before entering?**

**Remember:
An animal
control officer is
an officer of the
law**

THESE ARE GENERAL RULES... KNOW THE LAW IN YOUR AREA

It is wise to have a criminal lawyer on retainer. Make sure you know at least of a lawyer in your area who can handle your case if needed.

Remember one of the first things they may ask you to do is sign over your animals to avoid prosecution.

DO NOT MAKE ANY "DEALS"!

- 1. Do not let them in without a warrant no matter how much they ask or threaten. Tell them they cannot come in.**
- 2. If you let them in, anything they find "in plain sight" can be used against you.**
- 3. Step outside do not talk in an open doorway. Lock the door behind you.**
- 4. Once inside your home they can continue to search.**
- 5. DO NOT BE INTIMIDATED. Hold your ground firmly. Do not touch an officer.**
- 6. If they claim they have a search warrant. Ask to see it. Make sure it is signed by a judge and make note of the area to be searched.**
- 7. Make sure your husband/wife, dog sitter and anyone else who lives or is in your home in your absence knows the above.**
- 8. Give no information beyond your name. Anything you say can be used against you. Do not touch an officer or try to restrain, do not threaten the officer with a complaint against him/her.**
- 9. If questioning persists demand to speak to your lawyer.**

GATHERING THE FACTS

1. Write down name and badge numbers and their agency affiliation of anyone on the scene.
2. Make note of any witnesses.
3. Write down the incident, including date and time and what occurred when fresh in your mind.

If it is very stressful, keep your cool, and stand your ground.

After being questioned and a reasonable length of time you have a right to call an attorney.

IF YOU ARE SUCCESSFUL IN TURNING AWAY ANIMAL CONTROL

If you are confronted by animal control and turn them away, use that time to straighten, and if over limit, move any of your animals to a prearranged safe place. Have all your paperwork in one place and easily accessible, including veterinary records and your attorney's telephone number.

Be aware of the law. In more and more areas warrant less search and seizure are becoming more common, which means you cannot deny animal control entry. In these cases your dog can be seized and sometimes for very small infractions. Along with warrant less search and seizure of animals you have no recourse in court, so know your laws. These can vary from state to state and county to county.

In areas where you are allowed to be heard, realize the deck is stacked against animal owners. You are advised to have a criminal lawyer on retainer. Owners who retain ownership of their dogs after the proceedings are often charged outrageous "boarding" costs and are often not able to afford these exorbitant fees charged. If you cannot pay the "boarding" fees charged, the dogs are forfeited.