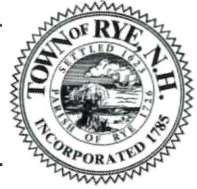




RYE POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Kevin Walsh
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To: Rye Select Board
From: Chief Kevin Walsh
Date: October 08, 2024
Re: Animal Control

The Rye Animal Control program is based on community engagement and has enhanced public safety and animal welfare. The ACO has organized workshops to educate residents, teaches about responsible pet ownership, and advocates for the importance of nurturing and how to report stray, orphaned or injured animals.

Neighborhood patrols: ACO has developed a program where she communicates with people on the beach and on conservation and other town owned land and NH state parks to encourage others to monitor animal situations and provide information to the ACO reducing the amount of time a police officer must respond to a complaint. This strategy has allowed officers to continue to be visible in neighborhoods, which results in reducing motor vehicle complaints. ACO walks through town property and ensures the dog waste bags dispensers are full, encouraging people to pick up immediately after their dog.

Resources: The ACO has built relationships with outside resources to improve animal care. For example, A woodchuck was recently caught in a fence on private property. The ACO and DWP worked together to free the animal. The ACO brought the animal to Millstone Wildlife Center to assist with the animals' injuries and medicate it's infection. The Rye resident was pleased with the towns' response. This is just one of many examples of the community service provided. A police officer does not have the knowledge or training to manage the tasks to help wildlife.

Community Engagement: The ACO uses Instagram and Facebook to keep people informed of community in reference to beach rules, organized workshops, and when the ACO has a missing dog in custody. The ACO uses social media to establish a way to get community feedback on animal control practices to continuously review animal control policies and improve the ACO program. At the beginning of the beach season, she hands out dog cookies with the beach rules for dogs to dog owners. The feedback has been extremely positive and evaluating the calls for service has shown a reduction in people calling about dogs on the beach during the summer.

By focusing on community engagement, the Rye ACO program has fostered a collaborative environment where residents feel empowered to contribute to the welfare of animals while enhancing public safety.

Dog bites continue to be consistently reported. Of the 6 bites/attacks so far in 2024, only 2 have been on town property. Dog attacks are now more commonly occurring on private property. We believe this is a result of the ACO's precautionary presence on town property.

Since current ACO started: approximately 47 dog violation citations have been issued.

The animal control calls, like speeding complaints, remain significant year-round. The full-time ACO allows the officers to be on the road and respond to other calls.

Total ACO calls for 2024 to date: 570.

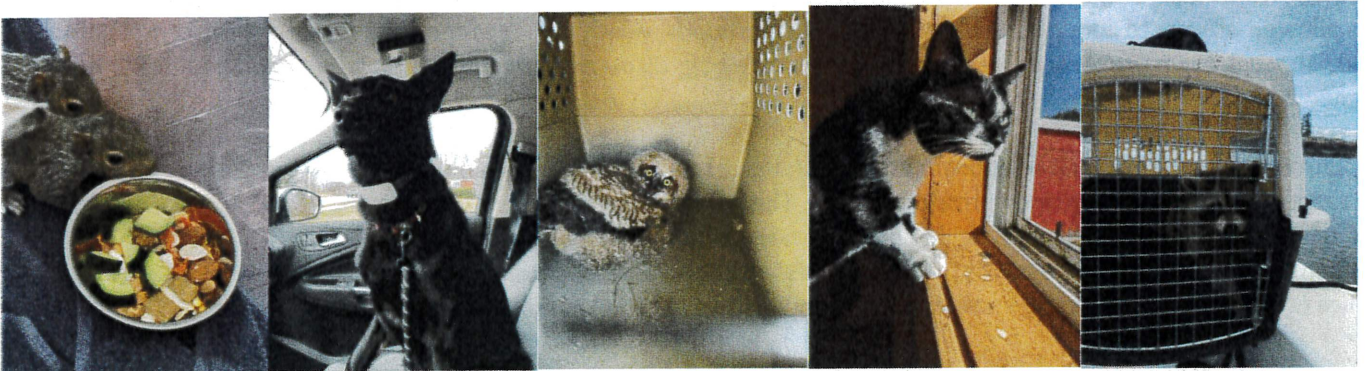
Compare to the same time in 2023: 471 total ACO calls.

2024 ACO call breakdown:

- Beach Patrol: 138
- Patrol (town forest/state parks/etc): 165
- ACO Incidents: 267

This does not include administrative activities and working on reports.

A few of the animals helped by ACO in 2024:



2025 Animal Control Budget

01-4414-38-515 Animal Care

- Fees for boarding an animal at the SPCA or at a private animal hospital. \$75.00 to \$175.00 per animal. \$325.00 in 2023
- Past years dog biting a human, no proof of rabies, must be quarantined 10 days.
- Euthanize an animal for humanitarian reasons.

\$500.00 same as last year

01-4414-38-679 Equipment Purchases

- Uniforms for animal control officer
- Cages, catch polls, gloves, disposable blankets.

\$300.00 same as last year

No fuel and maintenance costs, police department budget absorbs fuel for mopeds and vehicle used in poor weather conditions.