

GUIDE FOR GHI MEMBERS WITH COMPANION ANIMALS

(GHI Companion Animal Committee)



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1. INTRODUCTION

The Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (GHI) Companion Animal Committee (CAC) decided to write this Guide for GHI Members with Companion Animals (the Guide) for several reasons:

- GHI is a very animal-friendly community. Using the national estimates of companion animals per household, there could be several thousand companion animals in GHI.
- While our community is very animal-friendly, not every member has a companion animal.
- The close proximity between townhomes, the smaller yards, and the lack of soundproofing in most homes can be a challenge for members with animals and for their neighbors.
- This is can be a particular challenge for new members who are transitioning their companion animals from single family homes or from homes in more rural settings.

Another purpose for this Guide is to link members to resources:

- To help members address common nuisance behaviors, such as excessive barking and fence lunging;
- To provide information about how to transition outdoor cats indoors;
- To provide a variety of animal-related resources and local businesses;
- To list city and county animal ordinances and GHI Companion Animal Regulations;
- To list local veterinarians and emergency hospitals;
- To provide information about how to obtain county pet licenses; and
- To provide information about how to obtain a Greenbelt Dog Park permit for your dog.

We also address topics that are relevant to living with companion animals in our area.

The term “Companion Animals” used in this Guide is intended to refer both to pets and to assistance animals for the disabled.

About the Greenbelt Homes, Inc. Companion Animal Committee (CAC)

The CAC is a committee of members who are appointed by the GHI Board of Directors. Our committee began as a sub-committee to another GHI committee in the early 1990’s. The GHI Board of Directors made us a full committee in 1994. We perform the following major activities:

- Serve as a resource to the Board of Directors, staff and members on companion-animal issues such as responsible guardianship, animal-related incidents and Board requests, state/county/local ordinances concerning animals, and disaster preparedness.
- Continuously educate the membership regarding animal-related issues by participating in activities in GHI and the City, such as staffing tables at the GHI Annual Meeting, Labor Day Information Day, and contributing articles and other materials to the GHI website and to *e-News*.
- Make recommendations to the Board as requested by the Board.

The CAC's Charge

The GHI Companion Animal Committee's charge is to advocate for the proper care and well-being of companion animals in GHI. The Committee works with Member Services staff to resolve companion animal issues and provide resource information to members (with and without companion animals) regarding animal-related issues. The Companion Animal Committee does not have any enforcement powers.

Consider Joining Us

If you are interested in companion animals please consider joining our committee. We meet the third Tuesday of the month at 7:30 P.M. in the lobby of the GHI Administration Building on Hamilton Place, Greenbelt, MD. Members are always welcome to attend the meetings.

2. TRANSITIONING COMPANION ANIMALS TO GHI

For new GHI members with companion animals, the transition to living in GHI may not be an easy one for their companion animals. GHI units may not be as soundproof as the families' previous homes. Dogs may not be used to all the noise created by neighbors. They also may not be used to being in such close proximity to other dogs, particularly as neighbors with dogs enter and leave their yards, or pass by on the many inner walkways throughout GHI.

GHI is a very animal-friendly community, so members are quick to notice and take action when companion animals are neglected or mistreated. In addition, GHI has companion animal regulations that are stricter than city and county pet ordinances:

- Tethering animals is not allowed in the member's yard or on GHI property.
- GHI members may only leave their dogs in their yards when they are at home.

The regulation about only leaving dogs in the yard when the members are at home ensures that GHI staff and contractors can safely enter a member's yard. If the member is at home, it means they are available to stop a dog from becoming a nuisance to neighbors.

Members may be moving from areas where it was acceptable to allow their dogs and cats to roam off-leash. This is not allowed in the City of Greenbelt or in GHI. This may be a big adjustment for a dog or a cat. However, it is the member's responsibility to ensure that a dog receives sufficient exercise by walking the dog regularly or by taking the dog to the Dog Park. Cats, too, must be kept indoors or be walked on a leash.

It also is the member's responsibility to understand that their dog may be more stressed than usual adjusting to a new environment. Do not assume that the dog will react favorably to people and other dogs while in the yard or on a walk. Be extra cautious until the dog has become comfortable in this new environment.

Prior to moving to GHI, members may have lived in a more open or rural area where barking dogs were not as much of a problem as barking dogs can be in our small townhomes with shared walls and smaller yards. A dog barking in the stairwell of a townhouse can sound very loud to neighbors. Neighbors may have different work schedules that require them to sleep during the daylight hours. The City of Greenbelt also has noise control ordinances which must be observed.

Some yards abut inner walkways that can be heavily used by other families during nicer weather and at certain times of the day. It is important that members not allow their dogs to bark excessively, lunge at the fence line, or attempt to jump the fence as people walk by.

GHI members are required to clean up the dog waste in their yards daily. While walking dogs through GHI, members must clean up after their dogs, depositing dog waste in acceptable receptacles or taking the waste home. Other members, particularly members with dogs, can become very upset when they encounter members who are not cleaning up after their dogs.

There are bag dispensers located throughout GHI where members can find bags if they run out of bags or leave home without them. The dispensers are for dispensing bags only. Do not place dog waste or trash in these dispensers.

It is essential for all animal owners to recognize that they are solely responsible for their animals' proper care and conduct, and that they also will be responsible for any nuisances, injuries or damage caused by their animals. GHI has no responsibility for residents' animals, and has no liability for any nuisances, injuries or damage caused by residents' animals. All animal owners in the GHI community are deemed to have agreed to indemnify GHI, and its members, directors, officers, employees and agents from any claims, injuries, damages or legal actions that may arise from their animals' actions and from any of their own failures to properly care for or restrain their animals.

When an issue arises with your neighbors or another member, it is recommended that you talk to them about the situation before contacting GHI Member Services and before making a complaint.

In addition to making a complaint about companion animals to GHI (the Member Complaint Process is discussed in the Member Handbook), members and others can contact Greenbelt Animal Control and Prince George's Animal Control. Staff, members and any resident of Prince George's County can file a complaint with the Prince George's County Animal Control Commission.

GHI Companion Animals Regulations (Member Handbook)

<https://www.ghi.coop/content/xv-companion-animals>

City of Greenbelt - City Code

<http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/46>

Prince George's County Code (Note Sections on Subtitle 3. Animal Control, and see Divisions 2, 3,4, and 5.)

https://library.municode.com/md/prince_george's_county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=THE_CO_CODEPRGECOMA

Prince George's County Animal Control Commission

<https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/481/Animal-Control-Commission>

3. WHAT IS A NUISANCE

A nuisance is defined in the GHI Member Handbook's Companion Animal Regulations as:

Any actions by companion animals that produce annoyance, inconvenience or discomfort to people and/or other companion animals and/or harm to property, e.g. prolonged barking.

The most common complaints received by GHI Member Services involve dogs barking in their yards and lunging at fence lines. It is best and safer if members passing by walkways avoid approaching fence lines when a dog is in the yard. There are also situations where a member's yard abuts directly next to a walkway. In this situation, the member should remain in the yard with the dog to ensure that the dog does not startle passersby by rushing and lunging at the fence.

If two neighbors have dogs that do not respond well to the sight of the other, they should consider arranging a system of notification, so that one neighbor knows when the other neighbor is letting out their dog. Then the other member can avoid letting their dog out at the same time.

Another very common complaint to Member Services is a cat roaming at large. As discussed below in more detail, the City of Greenbelt's Pet Ordinance does not permit cats roaming at large. This is a GHI regulation as well. Free-roaming cats can be a nuisance to neighbors in a number of ways. They often will wander into other yards and do their business, and they have been known to torment other members' indoor cats through windows and sliding doors. Members who feed birds often become very upset when cats come into their yards and attack birds.

Members can also create a nuisance by feeding feral or stray cats and wildlife. Problems have been caused by members feeding foxes, deer, raccoons, and vultures.

4. CATS IN GHI

It is illegal in the City of Greenbelt, and against GHI rules, to have *any* free-roaming companion animals, including cats. The City Code for Greenbelt defines what constitutes a companion animal, and sets forth the laws governing their owners. In particular under “Public Nuisance (1),” it defines a nuisance as any animal that “is repeatedly found at large”.

<http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/46>).

Fines for owners of said companion animals are \$25 for the first infraction, \$100 for the second, and \$200 for the third. (Section 3-3). With regard to residents of GHI homes, please refer to the GHI Handbook, Section XV. (<http://www.ghi.coop/content/xv-companion-animals>).

For help in transitioning your cat from an outdoor companion animal to an inside companion animal, see the website listed below which describes the process for transitioning your cat indoors. The website also includes a discussion about why your cat should be an indoor cat:

<http://pets.webmd.com/cats/features/should-you-have-an-indoor-cat-or-an-outdoor-cat>.

5. DOG ETIQUETTE FOR MEMBERS WITH AND WITHOUT DOGS

During nicer weather many members will walk around our community. Also, dogs will be spending more time in their yards.

So that everyone can enjoy GHI's outdoor spaces, members with and without dogs can support each other by learning some basic etiquette. Some members' dogs may race or lunge at the fence line of their yards as people pass by, barking loudly and sounding very menacing. The more these dogs are allowed to practice these unwanted behaviors, the more entrenched these behaviors become. Members should remove their dogs from the yard immediately when these behaviors start.

Members passing by these yards should walk past the dog as quickly as possible, without looking at or interacting with the dog. Do not approach the fence line and never place your hand over the top of the fence. Never allow children to run towards the dog or put their fingers through the fence.

Like people, some dogs require more space than others. They are not aggressive dogs, but any dog can react for a wide variety of reasons when they encounter other dogs or certain people. When walking around GHI, members who know that their dogs need more space should do their best to avoid getting near other dogs or people.

If members with dogs ask you not to come any closer to their dogs or to stop while they turn around and go another way, please do not continue to approach these dogs. If they wait for you to pass, do so quickly.

6. FENCE RUNNING AND LUNGING

Fence-running and lunging at the fence line can happen when a dog is frustrated by seeing people and animals but can't reach them, or when the dog thinks it needs to protect its home or people. These behaviors can include excessive barking and fence fighting and may cause the dog to respond to other dogs even when not behind the fence. All of these problems result from the dog's stress.

These recommended strategies can help stop these behaviors from getting worse and better manage the situation.

- Only allow your dog in the yard for limited periods of time and only when you are in the yard.
- The minute the dog begins fence-running, the behavior should be interrupted, and the dog should be removed from the yard.
- This behavior can lead to a cycle of increased episodes caused by anxiety and stress that can become more easily triggered in the future.
- The more the dog is permitted to run the fence and bark, the harder it will be to modify the behavior.
- Take note of when people and their dogs are more likely to walk by your fence or your walkway and keep your dog out of the yard at these times.
- Avoid giving your dog the opportunity to start fence-running or fence-fighting. If you share a fence with neighbors who do not have a dog, and your dog barks at your neighbors, check with your neighbors before letting your dog into the yard.
- If your neighbors come out when you both are in the yard, have a leash ready to keep your dog away from the fence or take your dog inside until the neighbor leaves their yard.
- If you have a see-through fence do something to make it more solid. You can create a natural screen with bushes, trellises or planters. Note that this may only work with some dogs, as they can still smell and hear people and dogs walking by.

Another management strategy in the yard is to consider replacing your dog's leash with a long training leash often used for recall training. (Recall is the word used to describe the owner's action of calling the dog to return to them when the dog is off-leash. A "come" command is most often used for recall.) This way if you do need to interrupt and remove your dog from the yard, he is already on lead. You can also use this training leash to work on your dog's recall response.

If you decide to work with a trainer, make sure you work with a rewards only (force-free) trainer. The trainer will likely have several strategies, such as counter conditioning the dog to the presence of people or situations that cause your dog to run the fence and bark. Another will be to improve your dog's recall response. Another strategy that can be helpful is to use training and the reinforcement of high value treats to encourage your dog to look at you for their reward rather than running the fence or barking.

For a list of rewards only trainers, visit the resources section of www.yourdogfriend.org.

For more details about the management and training approaches mentioned above check out the following links.

<https://bestfriends.org/resources/managing-barrier-reactivity>

<https://www.dogsnaturallymagazine.com/dog-fence-running/>

<https://yourdogsfriend.org/help/>

7. EXCESSIVE BARKING

There are a number of reasons why dogs bark. There are even situations when we may want our dogs to bark. For example, we want to be alerted if someone is trying to enter our yards or homes. However, if a dog is barking so much that it is disturbing our neighbors that is a problem.

Identifying why your dog is barking may help determine the best approach to stop a dog's excessive barking or indicate that the best approach may be to contact an animal behaviorist.

The web sites listed below will provide a good overview of why dogs bark. There is also information about what works and what doesn't work when trying to stop a dog from barking excessively.

How to Get Your Dog to Stop Barking - Six Ways to Control Your Dog's Barking (Humane Society of the United States)

http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/dogs/tips/how_to_stop_barking.html

How to Stop Unwanted Barking (Karen Pryor)

<http://www.clickertraining.com/how-to-stop-unwanted-barking>

Barking (Your Dog's Friend)

<http://yourdogsfriend.org/help/barking/>

The Effect of Acoustics on Barking in GHI

The effects of acoustics on sounds, such as barking, throughout GHI is an interesting discovery for many new members. Members talking in certain areas of the cooperative may be heard very clearly across large common areas. For some townhomes in GHI, sound carries a great distance without losing volume. For example, not only may dogs barking in a yard be heard distinctly more than a block away, but the member yelling at the dog may be heard clearly that far away. New members should be aware of this phenomenon and, if affected by it, be extra vigilant in managing their dogs' barking.

8. DINOS – DOGS IN NEED OF SPACE

Like people, not all dogs enjoy or welcome social interaction with people or even with other dogs. The DINOS web site is dedicated to educating the public about dogs who need space.

Many dogs that need space (DINOS) while reactive to people or other dogs are not aggressive. If not approached and permitted extra space, many of these dogs are fine. In fact, the CAC does not recommend the DINOS management techniques for aggressive dogs. The fact that your dog is a dog in need of space also is not an excuse for you not to train your dog or, if necessary, work with an animal behaviorist.

The CAC suggests using a yellow ribbons or bandana tied to a dog's leash or collar to identify a DINOS no matter what the reason. There are also leashes and collars available that say things like "I need space" or "Nervous." Dogs wearing these items show that the dogs' companion animal parents are working hard, first, to manage their dogs and, then, to train their dogs to become more comfortable with unfamiliar people and other animals. For some companion animal parents managing their dogs in these situations may be temporary while for other dogs it will be life-long.

Most often, DINOS are fearful of unfamiliar dogs, people, places or situations. They may be in pain from recent surgery or ongoing medical problems. Many dogs who were rescue or shelter dogs may not have had sufficient socialization with people or other dogs or have not yet mastered the basic obedience skills needed in the GHI community. Their reactions to fearful situations and encounters may look menacing to humans, so their companion animal parents are doing their best to manage the situation by asking people and children not to approach, or to wait for a moment, while the companion animal parent walks the dog away from the situation.

The CAC also seeks to educate people in appropriate ways to approach and interact with any dog, whether or not it's a DINOS.

Some simple strategies include:

- Being aware of what it means when you see a dog wearing a yellow ribbon or bandana or leash;
- Asking the companion dog's parent if it's okay to approach,
- Learning to recognize dogs' stress signals, and
- Learning less threatening strategies to approach any dog.

For more information, please check the following websites:

<https://dogsinneedofspace.com/>

<https://yourdogsfriend.org/help/dogs/>

<https://yourdogsfriend.org/product/online-reactive-dog-class/>

<https://yourdogsfriend.org/reactive-dog-questionnaire/>

9. LOCAL AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS FOR COMPANION ANIMALS

Below is a listing of the most requested information concerning animal-related agencies, businesses and services.

Enforcement of Ordinances and Regulations

City of Greenbelt Animal Control Officer (ACO)	301-474-6124 Call police non-emergency # after hours
Greenbelt Police Department	301-474-7200 (non-emergency #)
GHI Member Services Director	301- 474-4161
Prince George's County Animal Management Division 3750 Brown Station Rd., Upper Marlboro, MD	301-780-7200
Prince George's County Animal Control Commission 9400 Peppercorn Place, Largo, MD	301-780-7201
SPCA/Humane Society of Prince George's County	301-262-5625

Injured Wildlife and Wildlife Conflicts

State of Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) To report sick, injured or nuisance wildlife Poaching activity	1-877-463-6497 1-800- 635-6124 1-800-628-9944
MD Natural Resources Police	1-410-295-4600 (office) 1-410-260-8888 (24 hrs.)
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Law Enforcement Division	1-410-573-4514
City of Greenbelt Animal Control Officer	301-474-6124
Prince George's County Animal Management Division/Shelter	301-780-7201
Second Chance Wildlife Center All Creatures Great and Small Wildlife Center, Inc	301-926-9453 410-740-5096

Animal Shelters

Greenbelt Animal Control/Shelter	301-474-6124
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Prince George's County Animal Control/Shelter	301-780-7200 (7201)
College Park Animal Control	240-487-3570
Anne Arundel County Animal Control	410-222-8900
Howard County Animal Shelter	410-313-2780
Laurel City Police Dept/Animal Control	301-498-0092
Montgomery County Humane Society/ Montgomery Animal Control	240-252-2555 240-773-5900
Baltimore City Animal Control	410-396-4698
Baltimore County Animal Service	410-887-7297
District of Columbia Animal Shelter	202-576-6664
Washington Humane Society/SPCA	202-723-5730
Animal Welfare League of Alexandria, VA	703-746-4774
Animal Welfare League of Arlington, VA	703-931-9241

10. LICENSES, VACCINATIONS, LOW-COST SPAYING/NEUTERING, AND DOG PARK PERMITS

Pet Licensing

Prince George's County residents must obtain a **license** for their pets. A license **must** be obtained within **30 days** of residency. **All pets must be current on their rabies vaccination** with a valid rabies certificate.

As stated in the Animal Control Ordinance, a **ferret, dog or cat** which is 4 months of age or older shall be licensed by the owner as herein provided (County Code, Section 3-145). Once your pet reaches **4 months of age you must apply within 10 days**.

You will receive a license tag that must be securely fastened to each **dog's** collar or harness and must be worn at all times. **Note:** This rule does not apply for cats and ferrets and there are exceptions if your dog participates in certain activities where a tag could endanger his/her safety. For detailed information please refer to the County Code, Section 3-148.

Fines for failing to comply range from \$25 to \$250 per pet. Make sure your pet is current on his/her rabies vaccination and obtain a license. Fines may add up quickly .

Fees for Dog/Cat/Ferret Licenses

\$5.00 for spayed or neutered (altered) pet

\$25.00 for unaltered pet

There is also a reduced charge of \$5.00 for assistance dogs in training. The licenses for assistance dogs and dogs in police canine units are free of charge. (Section 3-146)

The license expires after one year and has to be renewed annually. You will receive a letter from the Animal Mangement Division (AMD) with renewal instructions.

Note: If you are 65 years of age or older and your pets are altered and current on their rabies vaccinations you are entitled to two free licenses per year - if you purchase your license(s) in person at the Prince George's County Animal Services Facility in Upper Marlboro. (For location and hours of operation, see below)

Note: If you own **five** ore more animals that are larger than a guniea pig **and** are 4 months of age and older you must apply **additionally** for a **hobby permit**. (Section 3-148) The hobby permit costs \$5 annually. There are exceptions. Please contact AMD at 301-780-7251 for further information.

Licensing Requirements/Mail-In Information

The following information must be provided with a license application.

- Check or money order in the appropriate amount.
- Copy of current rabies certificate.

- Copy of spay/neuter certificate (if applicable).

Please download the form here:

<https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/144/Pet-License-Application-PDF?bidId=>

You can mail the application along with the required payment and documentation to AMD. See address below. Please allow 14 days for processing.

Purchasing Locations for Dog/Cat/Ferret Licenses/Walk-Ins

You can purchase your license(s) in person at the following locations:

Animal Management Division (AMD), License Section

3750 Brown Station Rd
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

Phone 301-780-7200

Mon, Tue, Fri 11 am -8 pm

Wed 11:30 am -7:30 pm

Sat 9 am – 4 pm

Payment options at this location: Cash or Discover Card only!

Please contact the following locations for hours of operation and payment options. These facilities accept walk-ins only. Please do not send your application to any of these locations by mail. It is recommended you call to confirm hours of operations:

Bowie Animal Control

15901 Excalibur Rd
Bowie, MD 20716

Phone 301-262-6200

College Park Municipal Center

4500 Knox Rd
College Park, MD 20740

Phone 301-864-5585

Laurel City Hall

8103 Sandy Spring Rd
Laurel, MD 20707

Phone 301-725-5300

Dog Park Permits

The City of Greenbelt Dog Park is located at Hanover Parkway and Hanover Road in East Greenbelt. A dog park permit must be obtained from the Department of Planning and Community Development. The application for the permit may be found on the City website.

<http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/dogpark>

Low Cost Vaccinations

For information about Prince George's County's Rabies Vaccinations Clinics, call 301-583-3782 or 301-780-7200.

The City of Greenbelt's Pet Expo often will include a Rabies Vaccination Clinic.

Petco offers a low-cost vaccination clinic at their store periodically. Contact the store for more information.

If you do not have your paper certificate from your pet's previous rabies shot, the vaccination will be valid for one year. If you can present the certificate, the vaccination will be valid for three years.

Low Cost Spaying/Neutering

Contact the following organizations for information about low cost spaying/neutering:

Spay Now (Laurel)	301-483-7080
SPCA/Humane Society of Prince George's County .	301-262-5625 Ext.6
The Spay Spot Spay/Neuter Clinic (Prince George's County Animal Shelter)	301-254-8151
Humane Rescue Alliance	202-726-2273
	202-576-6664
SNAP, Inc	301-209-5000

11. ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR COMPANION ANIMALS

Following is a listing of emergency hospitals, veterinarians, animal behaviorists, behavioral consultants, groomers, and companion animal-related businesses. These lists are for informational purposes only. The inclusion of these businesses on this list should NOT be construed as an endorsement or a recommendation by GHI or the Companion Animal Committee.

Emergency Animal Hospitals

In a Nutshell:

1. Find three hospitals near you and have their numbers and addresses handy.
2. Call before you leave so they can prepare for your arrival and give you instructions.

Trips to the Emergency Animal Hospital usually come when least expected. Since time and quick decisions may be essential and you might be stressed, it's best to be well prepared. Even if you'll never see the inside of any Emergency Animal Hospital, it doesn't hurt to know where to go and what to expect.

Plan in advance. Find the three closest Emergency Animal Hospitals. Have the numbers and addresses in your phone or have them in a place where you can easily find them. If you feel more comfortable traveling a familiar route, drive there at least once. While you're there you can go inside and find out their emergency care policies and obtain price ranges for treatment. If you don't need to drive to these locations consider calling the hospitals for this information. Animal Emergency Care can become expensive very quickly, so it's best to be informed.

Most Emergency Animal Hospitals will provide you with an estimate before starting treatment. If a hospital doesn't automatically provide you with an estimate, and you haven't talked to them previously, ask for one. Remember this is an estimate, so your bill may be higher. This is also the time to see if you want them to take all the actions they have listed on the estimate. You might want to discuss under what circumstances you would want euthanasia performed instead of treatment. For example if the animal is unlikely to have the quality of life that they had previously, perhaps you want to be consulted and allowed to make a decision before additional treatment is provided. Read what you sign carefully because often you are signing authorizations about how they will proceed and about which you might want to ask questions.

Always call before you start the trip to an Emergency Animal Hospital so they can prepare for your arrival. They will evaluate the situation and give you instructions. Also, if they cannot serve you at that time they will send you directly to the next hospital which might save you enough time for a positive outcome.

Dogs and Cats Veterinary Referral & Emergency	301-809-8800
Anne Arundel Veterinary Emergency Clinic	410-224-0331
Metropolitan Emergency Animal Clinic	301-637-8882
Friendship Hospital for Animals	202-363-7300
Rocky Gorge Animal Hospital	301-776-7744

Veterinarians

A.P.A.W. Veterinary Hospital & Wellness Center	301-552-3800
Banfield Pet Hospital (in Greenway Center Petmart)	301-441-1139
Beltsville Veterinary Hospital	301-937-3020
Brentwood Animal Hospital	301-864-3164
College Park Animal Hospital	301-441-2547
Glenn Dale Veterinary Clinic	301-390-6770
Prince George's Animal Hospital	240-309-6196
Riverdale Park Animal Center	301-277-5408
Lakeside Veterinary Clinic	301-498-8387
Lynn Animal Hospital	301-779-1184
Prince George's Animal Hospital	301-577-9400
Rocky Gorge Animal Hospital	301-776-7744
Seabrook Station Animal Hospital	301-577-3666
Takoma Park Animal Clinic	301-270-4700

Exotic Animal Veterinarians

Brookeville Animal Hospital	301-774-9698
Collins Animal Hospital	202-659-8830
Lakeside Veterinary Hospital	301-498-8387
Lynn Animal Hospital	301-779-1184
Pender Exotics Veterinary Centre (formerly Eastern Exotics)	703-654-3100
Rocky Gorge Animal Hospital (Tuesday only, some emergency weekend coverage)	301-776-7744
Wheaton Animal Hospital	301-949-1520
Quince Orchard Veterinary Hospital	301-208-1111

Holistic Veterinarians

Animal Medical Center of Watkins Park	301-249-3030
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Veterinarians Who Make House Calls

Dr. Lederman	301-490-5800
Metro Mobile Veterinary Clinic	

Trainers

See <https://yourdogsfriend.org/we-recommend/positive-trainers/> for a list of certified, force-free trainers in the DMV area. Your Dog's Friend also has a training facility with an interesting variety of classes. For members considering a puppy, they offer puppy parties, puppy kindergarten and puppy first grade. In addition, they offer free Advice for Adopters workshops providing guidance for adopters, potential adopters and fosters. A series of free workshops on a variety of dog-related topics are offered throughout the year. See the website for schedules and more information. Check out their resources and websites they recommend.

<https://www.yourdogsfriend.org>

See below for several trainers and behavioral consultants, including ones who work with cats.

LAnimal Behaviorists and Behavioral Consultants

Dr. Marsha Reich, DVM, DACVB

Maryland-Virginia Veterinary Behavior Consulting

301-384-3900

Board certified by the American College of Veterinary Behavior. In-home consults.

Dr. Leslie Sinn, DVM, DACVB, CPDT-KA

Behavior Solutions for Pets

Leesburg, Purcellville & Haymarket, VA, or in-home for VA residents.

540-454-9081

<http://www.behaviorsolutions.guru/>

lsinndvm@gmail.com

Board certified by the American College of Veterinary Behavior, as well as a certified trainer

Dr. Amy Pike, DVM, DACVB

Animal Behavior Wellness Center

Centreville, Manassas, and Herndon, VA

<http://www.abwellnesscenter.com>

info@abwellness.com

1-888-438-0788; 703-361-0710, ext 4

Dr. Pike is Board certified by the American College of Veterinary Behavior – Behavioral assessments are currently being conducted at the Veterinary Referral Center of Northern Virginia in Manassas.

Tanja Owe, M.S. degree in Companion Animal Behavior Analysis and Counseling

<http://www.greengrover.org>

443- 414-7590

Greenbelt, MD

Debbie Winkler, CPDT-KA, CABC

410-549-1135

Dog Ears and PAWS Humane Domain

<http://synalia.com/sats-trainers/sats-trainers/debbie-winkler/>

Owings Mills, MD

Elizabeth Catalano, M.A., CPDT-KA, CDBC, CTDI Vincent Catalano, M.B.A., CPDT-KA, CDBC, CNWI http://www.thecoventryschool.com/ Columbia, MD	410-381-1800
Mary Huntsberry Dogs and CATS https://www.helpingpetsbehave.com/ Ms. Huntsberry holds a masters degree in Behavior, Cognition, and Neuroscience from American University in Washington, DC where she focused on the science of animal behavior.	301-337-7401
Diane Stearns, CDPT-KA, CDBC Capitol Area Dog Training and Behavior Consulting capitoltrainingandbehavior.com Germantown, MD	240-780-8408
Annie Glasgow, Certified Separation Anxiety Trainer CAT and Dog Behavior Oscar Winning Behavior Info@oscarwinningbehavior.com http://oscarwinningbehavior.com/ Baltimore, MD	443-516-7227
Vivian Leven, CPDT-KSA, CBCC-KA Positive Dog Solutions https://www.positivedogsolutions.com/ Washington, DC and surrounding area	202-630-0249
Lisa Stemcosky, CCBC, CDPT-KA, SBA CERTIFIED CAT BEHAVIOR CONSULTANT Pawlitically Correct www.pawliticallycorrect.com	Contact through web site

Local Stores for Companion Animals

PetSmart 7475 Greenbelt Road, Greenbelt, MD	301-220-1295
Petco 10464 Baltimore Avenue Beltsville, MD	301-937-1222
Petco has low cost vaccinations clinics – see store for details	

Holistic, Organic and Eco-Friendly Food/Treats/Toys

Crunchies Natural Pet Foods	301-261-6280 (Crofton) 410-721-5432
The Big Bad Wolf (6960 Maple St NW, Washington DC 20012)	202-747-3434 (Main) 202-291-2404

Groomers

Grooming by Em

301-277-2033

PetSmart

301-220-1295

Laurie's In-Home Grooming

301-331-3055

12. TRAVELING WITH COMPANION ANIMALS

The web sites below provide a variety of information related to traveling with companion animals. Some of the sites allow you to enter a location and find out which motels and hotels in that location accept animals. Others provide good tips about traveling with your companion animals.

www.dogfriendly.com

www.pettravel.com

www.petswelcome.com

www.travelpets.com

www.pethospitality.com

www.bringfido.com

www.takeyourpets.com

13. HEARTWORM PREVENTATIVES, FLEA & TICK PREVENTATIVES & VACCINATIONS

Heartworm Preventatives

Why are heartworm preventatives important?

Heartworm disease is a parasitic disease that is transmitted by mosquitos to dogs and cats. The heartworm larva (immature form) is injected into your companion animals (dogs and cats) when the mosquito bites and takes a blood meal. The heartworm larva develop over a 6-month period into adult worms which live in the chambers of the heart and the large blood vessels of the heart and lungs. The adult worms do damage to the heart, blood vessels, and lungs causing inflammation, heart disease, lung disease and ultimately heart failure and death of the companion animals.

Can my companion animal get heartworm disease from another companion animal?

Dogs and cats who are infected with heartworms will become a source of infection for other companion animals in the area. Heartworms are not directly infective companion animal to companion animal. Companion animals must be bitten by a mosquito to either transmit the disease to the mosquito or to become infected by heartworms from an infected mosquito. This also means that your companion animal can be infected by heartworms from another companion animal who is a distance away from where your companion animal lives.

How do I prevent and treat heartworm disease in my companion animal?

There are many forms of safe and easy heartworm prevention available from your veterinarian. Many are monthly treatments that are chewable and easy to administer. First, your veterinarian will need to test your companion animal (for dogs only) to insure your companion animal is not already infected with heartworms. Treating an infected dog with a preventative without testing first can be detrimental to their health or potentially fatal. Dogs with heavy infestations and/or advanced disease can have serious reactions to treatments and must be monitored by a veterinarian during treatments.

Puppies who are less than 6 months old can be started on heartworm preventative without testing because they are not yet old enough to have a mature case of heartworms. So, it is best to start (with veterinary direction) all puppies on heartworm preventative as early as possible.

Any dog who tests positive for heartworms will need to be treated prior to starting preventative. Your veterinarian will discuss treatment and options with you. The earlier you detect a heartworm infection the better the chance of being able to treat the infection successfully.

Cats can be placed on preventative without testing because they typically harbor only one or two heartworms and treating with a preventative while infected will not typically harm them. Consult with your veterinarian about whether your cat is at risk of heartworms and should be on a preventative.

Companion animals should be kept on heartworm prevention year-round in this part of the country.

Fleas and Tick Preventatives

Why is it important to use a flea and tick preventative on my companion animals?

In this area of the county we have serious problems with both fleas and ticks particularly during the warmer months of the year. Ticks can be a problem even in the cooler months of the year in this part of the country especially because of our large deer population. Fleas can cause serious skin disease including skin infections and allergic disease in both cats and dogs. Additionally, fleas can infest your home and cause significant discomfort or even severe allergic skin disorders when they bite you. Ticks carry a number of diseases that are not only a problem for your dog, but also for you if you are bitten. Diseases such as Lyme Disease, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, Ehrlichiosis and other tick-borne diseases are potentially serious diseases that can cause serious illness and in some cases death in either you or your companion animal.

Flea and tick preventatives are significantly improved over the last 20 years. Many of the current preventatives are monthly combination products that treat both flea and tick problems. Some products are topical and some are oral. The older products that contain chemicals like pyrethrin or permethrins are no longer considered to be the best or safest options and have many more side effects than the newer products that are available from your veterinarian. Some of the older products can even be quite dangerous especially to cats. You should consult with your companion animal's veterinarian to find the best option for flea and tick control for you and your companion animal.

Other Parasites in Dogs and Cats

Besides ticks and fleas, there are other important parasites in our companion animals which are of concern. These parasites are most typically transmitted in companion animal waste. These parasites include roundworms, hookworms, whipworms, toxoplasmosis, giardia and many others. Most of these parasites are considered zoonotic or transmissible to people. The most important thing you can do to prevent these parasitic infections is to make sure you clean up companion animal waste promptly, wear gloves when working in the garden and wear shoes when walking outdoors. Additionally, you should have your veterinarian test your companion animal regularly for intestinal parasites by analyzing a stool sample. This is particularly important in households with children since they are particularly susceptible to certain parasites. To have a stool sample tested, take your veterinarian a fresh, non-frozen stool or fecal sample in a ziplock bag or clean, sealed plastic container. If you are taking a sample from a cat box, make sure you are taking stool and not a clump of urine and litter.

Leptospirosis

This disease has spread to almost every state and region of the country. *Leptospira* bacteria predominately infect dogs, although in rare cases the bacteria can infect cats as well. The bacteria live in different animal reservoirs. The animal reservoirs most prevalent in GHI include mice, rats, opossums, and raccoons. As these animals urinate, bacteria is spread into the environment. Transmission to dogs can happen when the dog drinks from a contaminated puddle or licks a paw that stepped in the infected animal's urine. As prevention is usually best, talk to your veterinarian and see if it's appropriate for your dog to be vaccinated. People may also be infected.

For more information for companion animals:

<https://www.avma.org/public/PetCare/Pages/Leptospirosis.aspx>

https://www.petmd.com/dog/conditions/infectious-parasitic/c_multi_leptospirosis

For more information for people:

<https://www.cdc.gov/leptospirosis/index.html>

<https://www.webmd.com/a-to-z-guides/what-is-leptospirosis#1>

Vaccinations

What vaccinations do my companion animals need?

Core Vaccines:

Rabies Vaccination is required by law for all cats, dogs and ferrets. Cats, dogs and ferrets can be vaccinated at 12 weeks of age. Maryland law requires all cats, dogs and ferrets to be vaccinated by 16 weeks of age. A booster vaccine will then be required for dogs and cats in one year and then every 3 years after that or as recommended by your companion animal's veterinarian. Ferrets are required to have a rabies vaccination booster annually.

Canine Distemper Vaccination is recommended for dogs and ferrets. Distemper is an infectious disease that causes significant disease and often death in unvaccinated animals. The distemper virus is still present in the wildlife population particularly fox, raccoon and skunk. So, it is imperative that our companion animals are vaccinated to protect them from this completely preventable disease.

Typically, most canine distemper vaccines given to dogs are combination vaccines that also prevent against several other infectious diseases including canine parvo virus and hepatitis.

Vaccination is typically started at 6-8 weeks of age and then every 3-4 weeks until 16 weeks of age. A booster is given in 1 year and then every 3 years or as recommended by your companion animal's veterinarian.

Feline Distemper (Panleukopenia) Vaccination is recommended for all cats. Vaccination can start as early as 6 weeks and is then continued every 3-4 weeks until 16 weeks of age or until the age recommended by the vaccine manufacturer being used. Cats are typically revaccinated one year later and then every 3 years depending on the vaccine product being used. You should follow your veterinarian's recommendations.

Non-Core Vaccines:

Dogs: Other vaccines that may be recommended for your dogs are Lyme disease (*Borrelia burgdorferi*), kennel cough (*Bordetella bronchiseptica*), leptospirosis and canine influenza. These vaccines will be based on your dog's exposure risk. Talk to your veterinarian about where your dog

will spend time, the type of area you live in (wooded versus city) and whether your dog will be boarded or go to dog parks.

Cats: Other vaccines that may be recommended for your cats are feline leukemia (FeLV) and feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV). These vaccines will be recommended particularly if your cat will be allowed to go outdoors or to meet up with other cats even if just through a screen.

14. LOST OR MISSING COMPANION ANIMALS

Steps to Take Before your Companion Animal is Missing or Lost

Consider taking the following steps with all of your companion animal now:

- Take a picture of you with your companion animal.
- Consider adding an ID tag to your companion animal with the family's last name, address, and phone number. These tags can be obtained at most chain companion animal stores. Greenbelt has a PetSmart located in the Greenway shopping center on Greenbelt Road.
- Microchip and register your companion animals.
- Register with www.nextdoor.com as someone from your neighborhood might find your lost companion animal and post them on this site.
- Request to join the Greenbelters Facebook page.
- Register with Greenbelt Alerts (search www.greenbeltmd.gov/alerts or enter <http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/index.aspx?NID=591> URL in browser).

Once you have signed up for Greenbelt Alerts, you'll want to opt in for receiving the alerts from Animal Control. These alerts let you know when Animal Control picks up an animal, the description of the animal, and the area where the animal was found.

A Photo of Member with Companion Animal(s)

It is very important that you have an up-to-date photo of you with your companion animal, if you are single, and a family photo if you have a family. In the event of an emergency or if your animal is found running at large, it will be much easier to reunite you with your animal if you have this photo. It also provides a recent photo that can be used on websites and posters in the event that your animal is missing.

Microchipping Your Dog

What is a microchip?

A microchip is a permanent form of identification that consists of a tiny microchip about the size of a grain of rice that is implanted under your companion animal's skin in the area between the shoulder blades. The microchip is placed by a veterinarian or trained veterinary technician during an outpatient visit and does not require anesthesia.

How does a microchip work?

The microchip does not have any internal source of power and works only when a compatible scanner is placed briefly over the microchip. The scanner emits a low radio frequency that provides the power necessary for the microchip to emit its unique identification number or code. Each microchip when read will give its identification number and a phone number for the microchip registry to call if the animal is found.

Can a microchip be removed?

Generally, microchips are considered permanent because they cannot typically be felt or palpated

through the skin. Because of this feature, microchips are a safe way to permanently identify your companion animal because they cannot be removed if your companion animal is stolen. Microchips can be seen on an x-ray, so your veterinarian will be able to locate a microchip if necessary. But since microchips are considered to be non-reactive, it is unlikely that a microchip will ever need to be removed.

Are microchips expensive to have implanted and register?

No. Generally, most microchipping procedures can be done for less than \$50.00 including the cost of a basic, lifetime registration. The most important thing to remember is that you **MUST REGISTER** the microchip or it will be of no value.

In the Event of a Lost Animal in the Immediate Vicinity

If your animal is missing, consider following these steps:

- Call the Greenbelt Animal Shelter (301-474-6124) or Prince George's Animal Control (301-780-7250). If your companion animal is properly tagged (county license and rabies vaccination tags) or has a microchip implant, it will enable the shelter and Animal Control to get your animal back to you much sooner.
- Provide a photo of the companion animal (s) with companion animal parent(s) or family as proof of ownership.
- Prince George's County has a Facebook page for "Lost & Found Pets of P.G. County, MD" (<https://www.facebook.com/Lost-Found-Pets-of-PG-County-Md-298360213621232/>) where you can sign up and post your companion animal's information. You'll need a photo of your companion animal, preferably one taken with you or your family.
- Facebook.com: There is a "Greenbelters" group on Facebook where you can post a message about your missing companion animal.

15. HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT

Greenbelt Homes, Inc (GHI) was originally planned to include open green space throughout the cooperative. We are lucky to have surrounding woodlands and to border the City of Greenbelt Forest Preserve. Buddy Attick Lake is nearby and includes woodlands as well as open space. BARC is adjacent to GHI with its open fields, woodlands, wetlands, ponds and creeks. Therefore, it is not surprising that members report sightings of raccoons, possums, rabbits, foxes, ground hogs, coyotes, deer, all kinds of birds, including large crows, herons and vultures, and even the occasional lost bear cub. While this is far from a complete list, it is clear that if you live in GHI, you are likely to come in contact with wildlife.

- Our close proximity to wildlife occasionally creates human-wildlife conflict. The problem when talking about this topic is members often have a very different understanding of what makes a conflict.
- While some members are feeding wildlife (no, you should not do this), others are terrified if they see a possum walk near their yard.
- Some members work to make their yard an urban wildlife sanctuary while their next door neighbors are ready to call GHI when they see an animal anywhere in the vicinity of their home.

What is a true human-wildlife conflict? Who decides these things and what can we humans do about it?

- A human-wildlife conflict that will result in action from GHI occurs when a wild animal is inside your townhouse, including your attic, or a wild animal is trapped in your crawlspace.
- Contact GHI maintenance and explain your situation.

Examples of situations where GHI will not respond as they are not considered human-wildlife conflicts:

- A juvenile raccoon is near your home during the day during the time of year when young raccoons are leaving the family group,
- A deer jumps your fence and eats your prized flowers or bushes
- A family of raccoons is getting into the garbage, or
- A family of raccoons are peering out of a drain cover.

On the other hand, a rabid animal should be reported to Animal Control or to the police immediately.

Signs to look for with a rabid animal include:

- Animals infected with rabies may appear sick, crazed, or vicious. This is the origin of the phrase "mad dog." However, animals infected with rabies may also appear overly friendly, docile, or confused. They may even appear completely normal.
- Behavior of animals with rabies may be unusual. For example, seeing a normally **nocturnal** wild animal during the day (for example, a bat or a fox) or seeing a normally shy wild animal that appears strange or even friendly should raise suspicion that the animal may have rabies.

Having said this, it is not uncommon to see juvenile raccoons close to our homes at the time they are leaving their family group to establish their own territory. Animals that are generally nocturnal may come out earlier if they are hungry.

In most cases it is against state law for anyone to relocate an animal. By doing so you remove an animal from its home, its food and its water source. You place it in an unfamiliar territory where it will not be welcomed by other animals.

There are things members can do to reduce the likelihood of a human-wildlife conflict. The most important things you can do include:

- Do NOT feed wildlife.
- Do not feed feral cats.
- Do not have close contact with wildlife.
- Make sure that your trash is contained in trash cans.
- Make sure trash cans are properly secured, so raccoons can't access your garbage.
- Use plants and bushes that deer don't like to eat.

Deer avoid plants with a strong fragrance, irritating textures, or plants that upset their stomachs. Bushes that deer avoid include boxwood, bayberry and beautybush.

Examples of plants that deer do not like include the following perennials:

- Lupines,
- Digitalis
- Foxglove,
- Lavender,
- Poppies, and
- Echinacea.

Annuals that deer do not like include:

- Marigolds,
- Nasturtiums,
- Petunias,
- Snapdragons, and
- Salvia.

Several of these plants may be poisonous for companion animals.

A GHI example of the consequences of feeding wildlife involved a member who decided to provide meat scraps to vultures. He didn't realize that vultures quickly increase in number, and remain in the area, if any vulture is fed. Both turkey and black vultures are protected as migratory birds at the Federal level. It is illegal to take, kill or possess them in Maryland. Here is the damage they can do:

Turkey or black vultures or both vulture species may occupy roost sites in urban or suburban areas where they conflict with people. People tend to have health concerns about these roosts due to excessive accumulations of fecal droppings, concern for the health of children and pets who may be exposed to bacteria or viruses in vulture fecal droppings or vomit. Damage caused by turkey or black vulture roosts include loss of use of the property, the over-powering ammonia odor emanating from the roost site, death of ornamental trees from acidic fecal droppings or excessive limb breakage, and the aesthetically unappealing white-wash effect from fecal droppings on lawn furniture, the home, walkways, vehicles, and the yard. Damage concerns often associated with livestock are predation by black vultures and disease transmission by both species.

In this case, members reported the situation to GHI very soon after they saw what was happening. GHI responded quickly and educated the member about why he needed to stop feeding them immediately. After a few days the vultures moved on.

If you experience an issue with wildlife, go to the State of Maryland's Department of Natural Resources for tips about handling human-wildlife conflicts.

https://dnr.maryland.gov/Wildlife/Pages/plants_wildlife/wildlifeproblems.aspx

16. EMERGENCY PREPARATION FOR YOUR COMPANION ANIMALS

Since 9/11 the buzzword has been “preparedness.” There are two types of disaster responses that you might have to prepare for:

- Shelter in Place – This mean staying indoors in your home.
- Evacuation – This means moving out of the area.

You should plan and be prepared to make either response.

If you are told to evacuate, you will need to find an emergency shelter or a motel that allows animals. Another option is to identify friends your animals could stay with. It is best to have a plan that identifies these locations ahead of a disaster. As part of this planning, try to make arrangements in advance with a motel or kennel to ensure that you will be able to evacuate with your animals or have a place to put your animal until you can get back into your home. If you identify a friend some distance from where you live, perhaps both of you can make arrangements to take each others' animals in the event of an emergency. Also identify someone you can exchange keys with, so they can take care of, or evacuate, your companion animal, in case you can't get home to your animal.

As we create emergency kits for ourselves and the other humans in our families, we also need to consider our companion animals. This may sound like a daunting task but getting the kit together before it is needed will reduce stress if the time comes when the kit is needed. An emergency kit for your companion animal should include:

- An up-to-date pet tag with name and address or a microchip
- Current photo of you and your companion animal
- Food and water for at least 72 hours
- Any medication your animal needs
- Veterinary records, especially for vaccinations
- Cat litter/pan and/or pooper scooper bags
- Manual can opener
- Food dishes
- First aid kit and supplies (items can be purchased inexpensively at dollar stores)
- Your companion animal's favorite toy/blanket for comfort
- Have someone you can exchange house keys with who can take care of or evacuate your companion animal.

For more information on this topic go to:

ready.gov/animals

aspca.org

redcross.org

humanesociety.org

redrover.org

The City of Greenbelt has established a CART (Community Animal Response Team). During an emergency or natural disaster, GCART responds by setting up a temporary shelter for animals when requested. They may also be asked to transport animals, provide first aid, and either reunite animals with their people or transfer them to longer term sheltering arrangements. If you are interested in learning more about GCART or about the next GCART meeting, send an email to greenbeltcart@gmail.com.

17. PLANNING FOR YOUR PET(S) IN THE EVENT OF YOUR ILLNESS OR DEATH

Things to Think About

1. Immediate care – emergency pet sitter.
2. Long term care – friend or relative who would give your companion animal a permanent home.
3. Contact numbers card to carry in your wallet, or to include as part of your ICE (In Case of Emergency) phone entry or app that would alert emergency personnel that there is an animal in need of rescue.

Options for Pet Sitters

- Greenbelt Time Bank or GIVES - Membership in these organizations would allow you to trade “favors” with others, and one of these could be pet sitting. <http://www.greenbelt.com/org/gives/index.htm>
- Paid pet sitters -There are a number of pet sitters in the area. One or two advertise in the *News Review*, and others might be found on bulletin boards like the Co-op Supermarket’s bulletin board.
- Greenbelt Animal Shelter - This might be the last resort, but the Greenbelt Shelter is a “no-kill” shelter and does its utmost to find loving homes for companion animals in the case of an owner’s demise or inability to continue care for a companion animal. <http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/index.aspx?NID=510>

Other Things to Consider

Consider establishing a trust for your animals or include instructions in your will about arrangements you have made for your companion animals.

If you adopted your companion animal there are groups that will take your animal in exchange for a gift to cover the animal’s expenses.

For pure bred dogs, you often can arrange for a breed specific group to take your dog, particularly if you make a monetary gift for the placement and care of the animal.

Websites That Can Help You With Your Planning

1. PetFinder.com: <https://www.petfinder.com/dogs/bringing-a-dog-home/providing-pets-future/>
2. Pet Planning – ASPCA: <https://www.aspca.org/pet-care/pet-planning>
3. NY City Bar Assn. (financial planning in case of death): http://www2.nycbar.org/pdf/report/uploads/8_20072453-ProvidingforYourPetintheEventofDeathHospitalization.pdf

Emergency Care of Companion Animals -Sample Note to Carry in Wallet or Include in ICE Phone EntryApp:

In any situation in which I am unable to return home to feed my companion animal, such as my hospitalization or death, please immediately contact [Mary Smith] at [address and phone] or [John Doe] at [address and phone], to arrange for the feeding of my [cats] located in my home at [address]. GHI Member Services [name, address and phone], my Executor [name, address and phone], and my neighbor [name, address and phone]. Each have a copy of this document.

(Based on NYC Bar Association -- http://www2.nycbar.org/pdf/report/uploads/8_20072453-ProvidingforYourPetintheEventofDeathHospitalization.pdf)

18. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES FOR YOUR DOG

- City of Greenbelt Pooch Plunge – This event occurs the week after the Labor Day Festival at the outdoor pool of the Greenbelt Aquatic Fitness Center. You will be asked to sign a waiver and pay an entry fee. There is a limit on the number of dogs that can be in the pool at one time.
- City of Greenbelt Dog Park (See section entitled, ” Dog Park Permits.”)
- Mowatt Methodist Church Sunday Afternoon Dog Walk – You do not have to be a member of the church to join church-goers on their Sunday dog walks to Roosevelt Center. The group starts from the church at 40 Ridge Rd, Greenbelt, MD. They depart at 4:15 PM on Sundays, weather permitting. Well socialized dogs on leash welcome.
- Blessing of the Animals – Several churches in Greenbelt offer a Blessing of the Animals, such as the Greenbelt Community Church and the Mowatt Methodist Church. The events are held on or near the feast of St. Francis.
- Greenbelt Dog Walker Watch – The Watch is similar to neighborhood watch with a twist. Dog walkers walk their dogs as they always have and are trained about how to report suspicious activity to the police. Trainings are offered periodically. Contact George Mathews (gmathews@greenbeltmd.gov) for more information.

19. VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEMBERS WITH AND WITHOUT COMPANION ANIMALS

- The Greenbelt Animal Shelter is always looking for volunteers. Visiting hours are Wednesdays from 4-7 PM and Saturday mornings from 9 AM to noon. Dog walkers are always needed. To volunteer at the Animal Shelter, visit the Shelter during visiting hours as you will need to complete a volunteer application and sign a waiver. Fostering animals is another way you can volunteer. The Greenbelt Animal Shelter has a Facebook page.
- Join WAGS. WAGS stands for Well-wishers for the Animals at the Greenbelt Shelter. This 501.c.3 relies on volunteers to hold fundraisers to support the Greenbelt Animal Shelter. Donations are always welcome. WAGS has a Facebook page which includes contact information.
- If you are interested in volunteering or fostering with local animal rescue groups, Petfinder.com will provide you with information about groups in your area.