

# RUSK COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER 2023

## INJURIES:

Broken back(s)  
Fractured pelvis(s)  
Shattered Pelvis(s)  
Broken Pelvis(s)  
Paralysis(s)  
Nerve damage(s)  
Broken teeth(s)  
Punctured eye  
Lacerations  
Bite wounds  
Abscesses  
Unknown  
Rope burns  
Imbedded Collars(s)  
Frostbite (ears & tails)  
Head Trauma

## MISC:

Flea bite dermatitis  
Ringworm (zoonotic)  
Ureter defect- urine leaked into abdomen  
Secondary bacterial infection due to URI, Ear Mites, fleas and mange  
Vomiting  
Diarrhea  
Anorexia

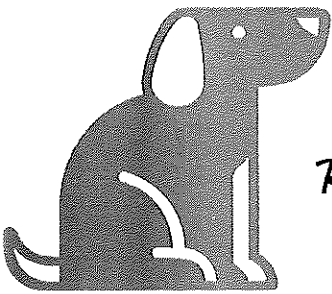
## DISEASE:

Canine Parvo Virus  
Feline Corona Virus  
Feline Infectious Peritonitis  
Feline Calici Virus  
Feline Immunodeficiency Virus  
Feline Herpes Virus  
Ehrlichiosis and Anaplasmosis

## PARASITES:

Demodex Mange  
Sarcoptic Mange (zoonotic)  
Fleas  
Ticks  
Cutarebra (bot fly larvae)  
Ear Mites  
Round worms  
Tapeworms  
Hookworms  
Coccidia





# RUSK COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER 2024 SO FAR



Stray: 6

Surrender: 3

Impound: 0

Quarantine: 0

Adopted: 14

Reclaimed: 0

Transferred: 9

Euthanized: 0



Stray: 4

Surrender: 2

Impound: 1

Quarantine: 1

Adopted: 3

Reclaimed: 7 (1 from 12/31/23)

Transferred: 0

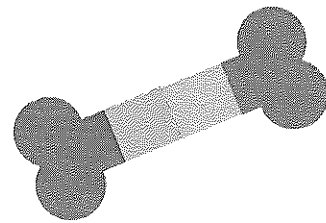
Euthanized: 0



Spay/Neutered

3 shelter Dogs

13 shelter cats



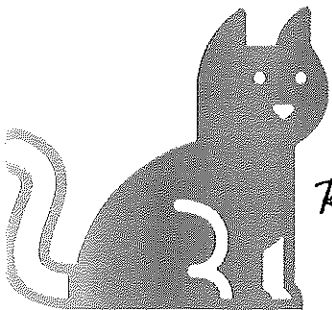
27 Spay/Neuter Vouchers given out!

## Currently at the shelter:

Cats: 25

Dogs: 3

Foster Care: 3 cats



# RUSK COUNTY HUMANE OFFICER 2024 SO FAR

Citations: 4

Order of Quarantine: 2

Bites, no owner found: 1

Animal Complaints: 5

Warnings: 4

+2 more as of 1/31/24





Rusk County Animal Shelter  
 200 Doughty Rd  
 Ladysmith WI 54848  
 Ph: 715-532-2637

Rusk County Government Center  
 311 Miner Ave E  
 Ladysmith WI 54848  
 Ph: 715-532-2100



### ORDER OF QUARANTINE

Within 24 hours after the quarantine order is issued\*

I, (name) \_\_\_\_\_, as a Law Enforcement Officer *or* Humane Officer appointed by Rusk County, on this day (date) \_\_\_\_\_ order (animal name) \_\_\_\_\_ to be quarantined for a period of TEN (10) days, as mandated under Wisconsin state law (SS 95.21) The **vaccinated or unvaccinated** animal **MUST** be examined by a licensed veterinarian on the first day, the last day and one intervening day of the observation period.

Under Section 8.66 of the Rusk County Code of Ordinances; all fees associated with a Rabies Quarantine that is being isolated at the Rusk County Animal Shelter are the responsibility of the owner; including but not limited to, all veterinary fees, boarding fees and impound fee if applicable.

**Penalty for Failing to Comply with quarantine requirements:** Wisconsin State Law 95.21 (10) (b) provides for a fine of \$100 - \$1,000- or 60-days imprisonment or both for failure to comply with a quarantine order.

**UNVACCINATED Dogs or Cats**

If an unvaccinated dog or cat bites a person, an officer will order that animal quarantined for a period of at least 10 days after the bite. The "officer" can be a public health official, a law enforcement officer, a DNR warden, or a humane officer.

The **unvaccinated dog or cat must be delivered to an isolation facility** (e.g. veterinary clinic, humane society/shelter or pound) for a 10-day observation period. The **unvaccinated animal MUST** be examined by a licensed veterinarian on the first day, the last day and one intervening day of the observation period.

**VACCINATED Dogs or Cats**

If a vaccinated dog or cat (as shown by a valid rabies certificate) bites a person, an officer will order that animal quarantined for a period of at least 10 days after the bite. The "officer" can be a public health official, a law enforcement officer, a DNR warden, or a humane officer.

**Vaccinated dogs and cats may be quarantined on the premises of the owner** if the animal is kept in an escape proof enclosure **or in the home** and walked on a leash by a responsible adult. If a quarantine cannot be adequately maintained on the premises of the owner, an officer may order a vaccinated dog or cat to be quarantined at an isolation facility (e.g. veterinary clinic, humane society shelter, pound) for a 10-day observation period. The **vaccinated dog or cat MUST be examined by a veterinarian on the first day, the last day and one intervening day of the observation period.**

Name of Animal Owner: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Animal Owner: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Animal: \_\_\_\_\_ Breed: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Color: \_\_\_\_\_

Rabies Vaccination: Given (date): \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_, Expires (date) \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ Clinic: \_\_\_\_\_

Location of Quarantine: (circle one)      Home      Veterinary Clinic      Animal Shelter

Name and address of Isolation Facility: \_\_\_\_\_

Humane Officer Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Law Enforcement Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Animal Owner Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

\* It may be impossible to get into a veterinarian on weekends/Holidays; contact your veterinarian as soon as possible to set up rabies quarantine examinations/boarding. Keep your pet isolated until you can contact your veterinarian. The Rusk County Humane Officer will verify with your veterinarian that you have made arrangements for quarantine.



## The Admitting Examination

A valuable screening tool for recognition of conditions that require special care or should be brought to the attention of a vet. This is especially important at the time of intake.

### The benefits of performing physical exams on all incoming animals include:

- 1.) Quick recognition of infectious conditions, allowing appropriate segregation and treatment (ringworm).
- 2.) Recognition of non-infectious conditions that would benefit from treatment in the shelter (wounds, abscesses).
- 3.) Recognition of conditions that may not be treatable in the shelter but may affect adoptability, or that adopters should be advised of (e.g. heart murmur, tumor, dental disease).
- 4.) Detection of identifying features that help accurately describe the animal and speed reclaim (spay scars, tattoos).
- 5.) Documentation of animal's condition when it entered shelter – may be important for liability reasons or for monitoring animals housed long term.
- 6.) Efficient use of limited veterinary time: identification of animals most in need of further assessment.

## Documentation

- 1.) A physical exam form is done for every animal that enters the animal shelter to record animal health findings, vaccinations, deworming, flea/tic treatment, spay/neuter and anything else that pertains to the animal's overall health status and treatments.
- 2.) It is also used to ensure that all body systems are checked, vaccinations/treatments are done as well as let other people know what has been done, not done and any other findings.
- 3.) The physical exam form is sent home with adopters as part of their medical records.
- 4.) All physical exam findings, treatments, vaccinations, deworming, flea/tic treatments, spay/neutering and anything else pertaining to the animal's overall health status are also entered into our shelter management system.

## Physical examination basics

- 1.) Staff should be trained in the basics of physical examination.
- 2.) Staff that are good at physical exams are those that perform them frequently and Systematically.
- 3.) The goal is not diagnosis of disease, simply recognition of conditions that should be further assessed.
- 4.) For safety when working with animals of unknown temperament, the physical exam moves from less threatening parts of the exam to the most intimate/potentially dangerous areas such as examination of eyes, mouth and genitals. This allows the examiner to develop a sense of the animal's response to handling before proceeding to each new step in the exam.

## Physical exam components:

- 1.) **Signalment:** Describe the name, species, breed or mix, color, age, and sexual status (spayed/ neutered, male or female).
- 2.) **ID Check:** Double check for tags or writing on the collar. Scan the entire body with a universal scanner.
  - a.) Look for tattoos on inner ear, abdomen/inner thigh. Note distinguishing marks such as brands or ear tipping.
  - b.) Evaluate breed and carefully describe markings and coat pattern.

**3.) Overall appearance and attitude:**

- a.) Assess appearance before handling animal.
- b.) Attitude – consider normal for that age/breed.
- c.) Movement – any sign of lameness, stiffness, incoordination?
- d.) Initial assessment of behavior: this can guide initial housing and care choices (frightened animals can be housed in quiet areas with hiding places, while friendly, "adoptable" animals may go straight to adoption housing areas while awaiting further evaluation.

**4.) Safety assessment:**

- a.) If the animal's body language indicates that the physical exam would be unsafe to perform, skip it or get help.

**5.) Hydration: Assessed by checking the elasticity of the skin (skin turgor) over the shoulder blades.**

- a.) In normally hydrated animals, skin snaps back into place immediately.
- b.) Very thin animals have decreased skin elasticity, fat animals will have increased skin elasticity.
- c.) Sunken eyes and pale or sticky gums can also be an indicator of hydration status. However,

**6.) Musculoskeletal and neurological:**

- a.) Watch the animal move. Note whether it seems normally aware of its environment and normally coordinated.
- b.) Signs of abnormal neurological function – such as circling, staggering, and incoordination – should always raise concern, as they may be signs of serious disease (canine distemper, rabies, FIP).
- c.) Look and feel all over for pain, swelling or muscle wasting. Check the toenails for fraying (evidence of recent hit by car), declawed status, foreign bodies between the toes, and identifying features such as extra toes or dew claws.

**7.) Skin:**

- a.) Look for evidence of external parasites (fleas, ticks, lice), hair loss, scabs that may suggest a history of self-trauma due to allergy or neurosis.
- b.) Feel all over for masses, sores, or wounds. Be especially sure to check the umbilicus and all mammary glands, even on male animals. Check carefully for signs of ringworm. Note that many skin conditions look similar; scabies, demodectic mange, and allergies can all look similar.
- c.) A simple skin scraping may be helpful in these cases to distinguish infectious from noninfectious skin disease.

**8.) Body condition score and weight:**

- a.) Baseline weight is important for accurate drug dosing and to monitor animals for weight loss or gain throughout the shelter stay.
- b.) Have a walk-on scale for dogs and a smaller scale for cats.
- c.) Hands on for hairy animals, looks can be deceptive, palpation is important.

**9.) Heart and pulse:**

- a.) Listen to the heart beat on both the right and left sides of the chest. Listen for murmurs, abnormal rate and rhythm.
- b.) Feel the pulse at the inside of the thigh.

**10.) Lungs:**

- a.) Listen to the lungs on each side of the chest.

**11.) Ears:**

- a.) Ears should be clean and free of odor, with no discharge or slight clear to brown discharge.
- b.) Itchy in cats is likely to be caused by ear mites – ear mite infection can be confirmed by close visual inspection of the discharge or by microscopic examination of a slide.
- c.) Ear mites are uncommon in dogs, so excessive brown discharge most likely has another cause.
- d.) Yellow, green or foul-smelling discharge is abnormal.

**12.) Eyes:**

- a.) Looking in the eyes and mouth can be a little more personal.
- b.) In addition to checking the eyes and the surrounding tissue for discharge or swelling, check the sclera (whites of the eyes) to make sure there is no yellow discoloration or engorged blood vessels.
- c.) Yellow discoloration can indicate liver or blood problems, and may be seen on the gums and ear flaps as well.
- d.) Check the pupils – they should be symmetrical. Check the iris – dark brown spots in older cats are usually age-associated, benign "freckles", but large brown spots or ones that grow might be cancerous.



- e.) Check the cornea and the chamber of the eye between the iris and the cornea (the anterior chamber) for discoloration or injury. Problems in the anterior chamber can indicate serious disease.

13.) **Nose:**

- a.) Look closely for discharge, scabs or sores. Note color of discharge.

14.) **Mouth:**

- a.) Teeth – Check the teeth for patterns of abnormal wear. Worn enamel on the inside of the canines can be caused by cage chewing. Flattened incisors can indicate a history of hair chewing, sometimes associated with a history of skin allergies. Patchy enamel loss can be caused by a history of distemper. Moderate to severe dental disease should be noted so potential adopters can be advised that the animal will need dental care soon after adoption.
- b.) Gums – Gums should be pink in a healthy animal. Pale gums indicate anemia, shock, or other cardiovascular problems. Yellow gums indicate liver or blood disease. Severe gum inflammation in cats is sometimes associated with FIV or calicivirus infection.
- c.) Oral tissue – ulcers/sores on the tongue or lips in cats is most likely caused by calicivirus infection. Oral cancer is relatively common in older dogs and can be quite aggressive, so any suspicious masses should be checked out further.
- d.) Breath check – bad breath that seems out of proportion with the amount of dental disease can be a sign of serious problems, such as kidney disease or diabetes.

15.) **Lymph nodes:**

- a.) Feel for enlarged or painful lymph nodes in the submandibular area, in front of the shoulder blades, and behind the knee.

16.) **Trachea and throat:**

- a.) In dogs, a cough elicited by mild pressure on the trachea may indicate kennel cough or non-infectious tracheal problem (more common in small dogs).
- b.) In cats, feel for an enlarged thyroid gland on either side of the trachea.

17.) **Abdomen:**

- a.) Gently feel for large masses, pain, fluid, or advanced pregnancy. Some animals resent abdominal palpation even if it is not painful to them. Interpret results in context of rest of physical exam.

18.) **Urogenital:**

- a.) Double check sex, check for presence of testicles or cryptorchidism or already neutered.
- b.) For presence of a spay scar, this area should be shaved, cleaned with alcohol.
- c.) Check for presence of tattoo (signifies the animal has been altered)

19.) **Anal:**

- a.) Check the anal glands for swelling or discharge.
- b.) Check around anus for masses/abscesses; masses near the anus can be serious and should be checked out.

20.) **Temperature:** It may not be practical to check temperature on all animals.

- a.) If the animal appears ill, has visible wounds or abscesses, or is suspected of hypo/hyperthermia then a temperature should definitely be checked.

21.) **Approximate age:**

- a.) Use the guidelines on aging animals based on dentition to determine the animals age.
- b.) Aging by teeth is most useful in animals less than one year old.
- c.) Overall body condition, condition of teeth and appearance of the eyes can give some idea of age.
- d.) It is impossible to accurately estimate age within better than a few years in a mature animal.

22.) **Language:**

- a.) Use descriptive, factual language when describing your physical exam findings.
- b.) Use appropriate correct medical abbreviations to describe physical exam findings

## **Infectious Disease Red Flags**

- 1.) In a shelter – with so many lives at risk – it's best to err on the side of caution when it comes to infectious disease.
- 2.) The signs below CAN be seen with common and potentially serious infectious disease.
- 3.) Some of these signs can also be seen with many other, less worrisome problems. If you see these signs, it is best to isolate the animal and handle as if infectious (to both animals and people) until it can be checked.
- 4.) Bloody or severe diarrhea
- 5.) Vomit or diarrhea with other signs of disease
- 6.) Neurological signs
- 7.) Oral ulcers with fever or swelling
- 8.) Circular patches of hair loss
- 9.) Dead in cage – always check for parvo/panleukopenia

## **Emergency Red Flags**

The following signs should be checked out by a veterinarian immediately.

For some of these problems, immediate care is needed to save the animal's life or avoid severe suffering. In other cases, even if not immediately life threatening, there is a much better chance of recovery if the problem is dealt with promptly.

- 1.) Fever > 106.5 or temperature < 99
- 2.) Severe dehydration
- 3.) Trouble breathing
- 4.) Seizures
- 5.) Blue, very pale or brick red gums
- 6.) Recent history of being hit by a car
- 7.) Acute severe lameness or injury with bone exposed
- 8.) Major wounds or any fresh wound requiring sutures
- 9.) Injury to the eye
- 10.) Bleeding or extensive, easy bruising
- 11.) Suddenly swollen abdomen
- 12.) Cat with possible urinary blockage (unable to urinate or straining to urinate)
- 13.) Pregnant animal in distress
- 14.) Evidence of pain, such as restlessness, vocalizing, panting, or failure to bear weight on a limb, or any condition that would be expected to be painful