



The Washington Area Humane Society (WAHS) Employs one full time Humane Society Police Officer. On Average the WAHS officer investigates over 350 abuse, neglect, and abandonment cases a year.

- Contact for animal abandonment, abuse, cruelty, neglect, and tethering
- **Contact 724.222.7387 ext. 109**
- On duty Monday through Friday from 8:30 am - 5:00 pm
- Please leave a detailed message if they are unable to answer
- Provide your name, phone number, address/location you are calling about, and details of the situation
- Dial 911 if it is an emergency

WAHS Mission Statement

To provide shelter, safety, and care for the abandoned and abused animals of Washington County with the goal of placing them in forever homes.

Important Facts:

- The WAHS is 100% funded by private donations
- Intakes on average 600 animals annually
- Offers life-saving services to over 6000 community pets a year including spay/neuter surgeries, low-cost clinics, emergency boarding, fostering, humane investigations, respite medical care, and a pet food.
- Over 350 abuse, neglect, and abandonment cases are investigated annually.
- Live release rate on average is 94%
- 99% of the intakes are from Washington County, PA
- Only approved kennel in Washington County to intake strays from the State of PA.

A humane officer in Pennsylvania is a sworn, appointed individual who investigates animal cruelty, neglect, and abuse by enforcing the state's animal cruelty laws. These officers work for humane societies or other animal welfare organizations and have the authority to rescue animals, make arrests, and file charges against offenders. They are often sworn in by a local court of common pleas.

Responsibilities

- Investigate and enforce laws: Humane officers investigate claims of cruelty, neglect, and abandonment, and enforce the Pennsylvania Crimes Code related to animals.
- Rescue animals: They rescue animals that have been mistreated or are in distress.
- Make arrests and file charges: Officers have the authority to arrest offenders and prosecute them in court.
- Promote humane treatment: They also provide education on proper animal care and offer resources to help pet owners keep their animals in their homes.
- Respond to various situations: Their responsibilities can also include addressing issues like required vaccinations, dog bites, and dogs running at large

Appointment and training

- Appointment process: To become an officer, a person must be appointed by a humane society or similar organization and approved by the local county court of common pleas, often with input from the District Attorney.
- Mandatory training: Humane officers must complete mandatory training through the [Pennsylvania Academy for Animal Care and Control \(PAACC\)](#) to be officially certified. This training covers subjects like criminal procedure, animal husbandry, and animal cruelty laws.
- Cost of training: The training is costly, and officers often have to cover the expense themselves