

**§3947. Animal control officers**

Each municipality shall appoint one or more animal control officers whose duties are enforcement of sections 3911, 3912, 3916, 3921, 3924, 3948, 3950, 3950-A, 3952-A, 4041 and 4042 and Title 17, section 1023, responding to reports of animals suspected of having rabies in accordance with Title 22, sections 1313 and 1313-A and any other duties to control animals as the municipality may require. A municipality may appoint an employee of an animal shelter as an animal control officer as long as the person meets the qualifications and training requirements of this section. [PL 2019, c. 437, §2 (AMD).]

A municipality may not appoint a person to the position of animal control officer who has been convicted of murder, a Class A or Class B offense or a violation of Title 17-A, chapter 9, 11, 12 or 13 or has been convicted of a criminal violation under Title 17, chapter 42 or has been adjudicated of a civil violation for cruelty to animals under chapter 739 or who has been convicted or adjudicated in any other state, provincial or federal court of a violation similar to those specified in this section. [PL 2007, c. 439, §26 (AMD).]

Animal control officers must be certified in accordance with section 3906-B, subsection 4. Upon initial appointment, an animal control officer must complete basic training and be certified by the commissioner within 6 months of appointment. [PL 2007, c. 439, §26 (AMD).]

An animal control officer must attend advanced training programs as described under section 3906-B, subsection 4 to maintain certification. An animal control officer must have a minimum of 8 hours of training each year. [PL 2007, c. 439, §26 (NEW).]

Upon appointment of an animal control officer, municipal clerks shall notify the commissioner of the name, address and telephone number of the animal control officer within 10 business days. In the event the position is vacant upon termination or resignation of the animal control officer, the municipal clerk shall notify the commissioner within 10 business days of the vacancy. [PL 2009, c. 343, §20 (AMD).]

**SECTION HISTORY**

PL 1987, c. 383, §3 (NEW). PL 1987, c. 643, §3 (AMD). PL 1991, c. 779, §39 (AMD). PL 1993, c. 468, §15 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 490, §16 (AMD). PL 1997, c. 690, §28 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 439, §26 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 177, §1 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 343, §20 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 404, §9 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 437, §2 (AMD).

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