



## When Animal Control Knocks Stay Calm and Just Say No

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More than a few of us have had a visit from that branch of law enforcement called Animal Control. Sometimes they have been accompanied by various "rescuers." We recently read about a kennel raid that sounded more like a terrorist attack: the kennel owner's road was blockaded with vehicles and armed men banged on the door after dark, shining lights in his face as he came out.

Those of you who have endured the past 20 years in the breeding business probably don't need this week's information. But for those who are newer, here's a briefing on what to do when Animal Control comes knocking.



1. Keep your head and keep quiet. Never use physical force against a law officer.

2. Do not let them in. They cannot generally enter without a warrant or your permission. Talk to them outside your closed door. Anything they see "in plain sight" can be used against you, even a small building code violation that has nothing to do with your breeding business.
3. If there is a warrant, look at it carefully. Is it signed by a judge? Does it include your house or just your animal facility?
4. Anything you say can be used in court. Only give your name and remain silent. Do not try to defend yourself/ explain anything. Be polite and keep your hands in plain sight. Definitely do not lie, argue, curse at or touch the officers.
5. Take your time and get the names of every person present, their agency or organization, and ask why they are there. Write it all down as they tell you.
6. If you manage to turn them away this time, they will be back. Make sure your facilities are in great condition, send extra animals to friends, etc.
7. If you are arrested, remain silent and peaceable. Ask to call your attorney. Be careful what you say on that call (wait until you are at home again to explain details).



Some general reminders for your protection from people who want to put you out of business:

- Use a PO Box and don't publish your physical address on promotional materials or the internet
- Always keep your kennel clean and presentable
- Keep accurate and up-to-date records of your animal feeding, vetting, medical care, etc.
- Screen potential puppy buyers and employees carefully
- Don't allow strangers on your property
- Run a fair and honest business to avoid complaints
- Beware of strange callers that want to know how many puppies you have and at what prices. Don't share that information by telephone before careful screening.

*Here at United All Breed Registry, we keep to a strict policy of protecting your contact information. If a consumer wants to reach you, we call or email YOU with their address and phone; we never give out yours. If asked, we only offer general statements about how many litters we have registered for you, what breeds, etc. For example "Yes, we've been registering litters for them regularly for a number of years."*

*We also do not reveal the nature of any complaints we have on file against you. If they wish to file a complaint, we record it and send you a letter so that you can settle it with them if you wish. We require a court order for the release of any details about your registration activity with us. **We are proud to be part of your team.***

## **Links:**

**["What to Do When Animal Control Comes Knocking" in ShowSight magazine](#)**

**["Your Dog's Best Friend May Be His Attorney" on TheDogPlace online](#)**