

# Town of Buckfield, Maine

## Animal Control Annual Report – Calendar Year 2025

*Brandon E. Holmes, Animal Control Officer*

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### Overview

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In 2025, the Town of Buckfield received full-time, on-call Animal Control coverage focused on public safety, humane enforcement, and responsible ownership. Services included stray response, bite investigations, cruelty and neglect investigations, livestock containment, nuisance complaints, and coordination with shelters and veterinary providers.

A total of 202 calls for service were handled within Buckfield during the 2025 calendar year.

### Call Volume by Category

- Stray or loose animals – 132
- Bite investigation case activities – 26
- Abandonment cases – 8
- General animal control complaints – 7
- Livestock at large – 7
- Sick or injured animals – 7
- Cruelty to animals investigations – 5
- Neglect investigations – 3
- Continuing education related to service – 2
- Animal nuisance complaint – 1
- Lost pet complaint – 1
- Owner surrender – 1
- Welfare check – 1
- Aggressive behavior complaint – 1

Stray and roaming complaints continue to make up the majority of calls for service in Buckfield.

### Public Safety and Enforcement

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Twenty-six bite investigation case activities were documented in 2025. These entries reflect both initial bite reports and required rabies quarantine follow-up visits. Quarantine enforcement requires scheduled rechecks and documentation to ensure compliance with Maine rabies law and public health standards.

Cruelty, neglect, and abandonment cases were handled through corrective education when possible, with escalation to enforcement when necessary. Each case required documentation, follow-up visits, and in some instances coordination with shelter partners and law enforcement.

## **Livestock and Rural Response**

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Livestock-at-large complaints required roadside response and coordination with owners to prevent traffic hazards and repeat incidents. These cases often require rapid response due to public safety concerns.

## **Mileage and Field Activity**

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In 2025, approximately 2,179 miles were logged responding to Buckfield calls. This includes emergency response, shelter and veterinary transports, follow-up compliance visits, and related case work.

## **Community Education and Outreach**

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Residents were provided guidance throughout the year on:

- Proper containment and tethering laws
- Bite prevention and quarantine compliance
- Responsible ownership
- Livestock fencing
- Abandonment prevention
- Licensing and ordinance compliance

## **Closing**

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The Town of Buckfield continues to receive consistent and responsive animal control services focused on public safety, humane standards of care, and prevention-based enforcement. The 2025 data reflects steady call volume with continued emphasis on education, compliance, and responsible ownership.

Respectfully submitted,

**Brandon E. Holmes**

Animal Control Officer

Town of Buckfield, Maine