

# Town of Sumner, 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 Sumner received consistent 24-hour Animal Control coverage focused on public safety, humane enforcement, and responsible animal ownership. Services included emergency response, ordinance enforcement, livestock containment, welfare checks, shelter coordination, and follow-up compliance visits.

A total of 175 calls for service were handled within Sumner town limits during the 2025 calendar year.

### Call Volume by Category

- Stray or loose animals – 99
- Neglect investigations – 12
- Bite investigations and quarantine enforcement – 9
- General animal control complaints – 9
- Noise complaints – 8
- Cruelty to animals investigations – 6
- Sick or injured animals – 5
- Welfare checks – 5
- Livestock at large – 4
- Abandonment cases – 3
- Deceased animals – 2
- Continuing education related to service – 2
- Kennel inspection – 1
- Owner surrender – 1
- Animal nuisance complaint – 1
- Hoarding investigation – 1

Stray and roaming complaints continue to make up the majority of calls. Neglect, cruelty, and welfare cases require significantly more time due to documentation, coordination, and follow-up requirements.

## Public Safety and Enforcement

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Nine bite investigation case activities were documented in Sumner in 2025. These entries reflect both initial bite reports and required follow-up related to rabies quarantine compliance. Several cases required multiple contacts, including verification of confinement, owner compliance checks, coordination with Maine CDC when required, and final quarantine release documentation. Because quarantine enforcement often involves scheduled rechecks, the number of documented bite-related activities does not necessarily equal the number of unique bite events.

## Cruelty, Neglect, and Welfare Cases

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Neglect, cruelty, and welfare investigations combined represent one of the most time-intensive areas of service in Sumner. These cases require thorough documentation, coordination with the Maine Animal Welfare Program, and often multiple return visits before resolution. A hoarding investigation was also conducted in 2025, adding to the complexity of the caseload.

## Livestock and Rural Response

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Livestock-at-large complaints required roadside response, coordination with owners, and follow-up to prevent repeat incidents. These calls often occur during off-hours and require immediate response for traffic safety.

## Mileage and Field Activity

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In 2025, approximately 3,908 miles were logged responding to Sumner calls. This includes emergency response, shelter and veterinary transports, follow-up compliance visits, court-related travel, and welfare rechecks.

## Community Education and Outreach

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Residents were provided guidance throughout the year on:

- Proper containment requirements
- Bite prevention and quarantine compliance
- Responsible ownership
- Livestock fencing
- Ordinance compliance
- Lost animal recovery protocols

## Closing

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

Respectfully submitted,

**Brandon E. Holmes**

Animal Control Officer

Town of Sumner, Maine