



## Erika Barkman Animal Control Officer



*I help domestic and wild animals and resolve human/animal conflicts*

### **How long have you been an animal control officer?**

35 years

### **Where do you currently work?**

I work for Randolph Township (NJ). We currently cover 4 neighboring towns as well.

### **How do you spend most of your time at work?**

Animal Control Officers respond to calls for stray, injured, sick and abandoned animals. We also assist residents with animal related issues. When I am not on the road, I help at the animal shelter or work at the Health Department.

### **Why did you choose this career?**

I have loved all animals for as long as I can remember. I want to help them any way that I can. I remember my parents always helped stray animals, which is probably what inspired me.

### **What did you do to prepare for this career?**

Animal Control Officer Certification requires taking the Animal Control Officer Course and doing at least 20 hours riding along with a certified ACO.

#### **ERIKA'S FUN FACT**

*My favorite movie is "The Black Stallion" (I love horses).*

### **What do you enjoy most about your job?**

That is easy...helping animals :)

### **What do you find most challenging about your job?**

Resolving human/animal conflicts. Trying to encourage and educate people to live in harmony with nature.

### **What is one piece of advice you would give to a young person who is interested in your profession?**

If you truly love animals, you will love this profession, but there are sad parts too. Sometimes our job is to help end their suffering, but there are also many happy and rewarding moments.



Updated June 2025