



GENERAL POLICE ORDER

CLEVELAND DIVISION OF POLICE



ORIGINAL EFFECTIVE DATE: March 1, 2002	REVISED DATE: December 28, 2016	NO. PAGES: 1 of 4	NUMBER: 2.1.04
SUBJECT: ANIMAL INCIDENTS			
ASSOCIATED MANUAL:		RELATED ORDERS: 1.1.22, 1.3.16, 1.3.16, 2.1.03, 2.1.06	
CHIEF OF POLICE: <i>Calvin D. Williams, Chief</i>			

Substantive changes are italicized

PURPOSE: To establish guidelines for members involved in incidents with animals.

POLICY: The Cleveland Division of Police recognizes that interactions with animals pose a unique set of problems for members. It is the policy of the Division to address this issue by appropriate measures. These measures may be an enforcement action, a referral, and/or a documentation of the incident.

PROCEDURES:

I. Dog Incidents

- A. Members who observe or receive reports of unmuzzled dogs, found on a public street, park, building or other public place except when held securely on a leash by the owner thereof or another responsible person, shall notify the Communications Control Section (CCS) dispatcher of any such dog(s) and provide a description and location of same. CCS personnel receiving this information shall notify the Division of Animal Care and Control.
- B. The Division of Animal Care and Control is available to assist in instances of the crime of Dog Fighting. Dog Fighting is a felony of the fourth degree (O.R.C.959.16). Persons involved in this activity may pose a risk to unarmed Division of Animal Care and Control personnel. CCS shall dispatch a zone car prior to the arrival of any Division of Animal Care and Control staff.
- C. For complaints of loose or barking dogs, residents may be advised to call the Division of Animal Care and Control, Monday through Friday from 0730hrs to 1500hrs. On weekends or after hours, a message may be left.
- D. If members are confronted with a dog that is chasing or approaching in a menacing fashion or apparent attitude of attack, or attempts to bite or otherwise endanger, or kills or injures a person, they shall attempt to contain the dog in a confined area and request CCS to notify the Division of Animal Care and Control. If containment is not possible and the Division of Animal

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Care and Control is not available to handle the situation, and the officer(s) perceives that the dog(s) present(s) a threat to the safety of themselves or others, they shall take that action that is necessary to ensure the safety of themselves and the public. Destroying the dog shall be the last resort. Extreme caution must be exercised when shooting at a running or fleeing dog/dangerous animal. Members shall also be keenly aware of the projectile paths of any fired rounds.

- E. If it becomes necessary to kill the dog, and the involved dog has bitten a person, members shall avoid striking the head of the dog. An intact brain is necessary for rabies testing. Members shall secure the animal carcass and contact the Division of Animal Care and Control. The Division of Animal Care and Control shall remove the carcass for rabies testing.
 - F. Victims of dog bites shall be encouraged to seek professional medical attention. Such treatment will result in the generation of a “Dog Bite” report by the treating physician, which is forwarded to the Division of Animal Care and Control. The Division of Animal Care and Control, based upon this notification, may institute quarantine.
- II. All requests for Division of Animal Care and Control assistance shall be made through CCS. Field units shall not communicate directly with the Division of Animal Care and Control unless specifically ordered.
- A. Members shall note in their duty report when CCS is requested to notify the Division of Animal Care and Control.
 - B. Members shall take all precautions to ensure the safety of the Division of Animal Care and Control personnel while they are assisting the Division of Police. Division of Animal Care and Control personnel have the discretion and final authority to decide if a situation is too risky for them to precede.
 - C. *Members shall not leave the scene until the Division of Animal Care and Control personnel complete their duties and clear the scene.*
- III. Dead or Injured Animal Procedures
- A. Members encountering an animal carcass in a public place shall request CCS to notify the Waste Division-Dead Animal Pickup Unit.
 - B. Members encountering an injured animal shall notify CCS. CCS personnel shall request the assistance of the appropriate agency.

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- C. In the event that an animal is seriously injured to the point that euthanizing the suffering animal may be the most humane course of action, members shall request a supervisor to respond to the scene to make the determination to euthanize the animal. However, a member may euthanize a seriously injured animal prior to the arrival of a supervisor if there are well-articulated reasons to do so, such as the extent of the animal's suffering and/or the public sensitivities involved.
- D. In all instances, members shall exercise reasonable due care in accommodating public sensitivity in carrying out any task involving the euthanizing of an animal.

IV. Wildlife/Pest Procedures

- A. For problems with skunks, raccoons, groundhogs, or opossums, residents are to call the Division of Animal Care and Control to arrange for a wildlife trapper to come out.
- B. CCS shall refer deer complaints to the Ohio Division of Wildlife.

V. Tasers have been shown to be effective in some incidents of controlling or minimizing threats posed by animals. While it may be extremely difficult to shoot an animal accurately and effectively with a Taser, the use of the Taser on an animal is permissible.

VI. Animal incidents that involve a horse require a detailed Form-1 that includes the circumstances of the incident and identifies all parties involved. The Form-1 and all related reports shall be forwarded to the Mounted Unit for any follow-up.

VII. Reporting Procedures

- A. *A firearm discharge at an animal that is being used as a weapon to attack a member or another person requires the notification of the Use of Deadly Force Investigation Team.*
- B. A firearm discharge at an animal for any other reason than that stated immediately above requires *notifying the Inspection Unit via CCS.*
- C. When an animal causes serious injury or death of a person or is criminal in nature, members shall complete a Record Management System (RMS) report. Minor dog bites shall be handled as above, but shall not require an RMS report. Members shall notify a supervisor.

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- D. Members shall complete an “Animal Incident” RMS report whenever an action is taken that results in the death or serious injury of an animal. Members shall complete a “Firearm Discharge/Animal Incident” RMS report whenever a firearm is discharged in that incident. Refer to GPO 2.1.03 for additional information regarding Firearm Discharges. Members shall complete an “Animal Incident/Taser” RMS report whenever a Taser is used in that incident. Refer to GPO 2.1.06 for additional information regarding Tasers.