

Animal Control

806.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for interacting with animals and responding to calls for service that involve animals.

806.2 ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES RESPONSIBILITIES

Animal control services are generally the primary responsibility of Animal Control and include:

- (a) Animal-related matters during periods when Animal Control is available.
- (b) Ongoing or persistent animal nuisance complaints. Such complaints may be scheduled, if reasonable, for handling during periods that Animal Control is available for investigation and resolution.
- (c) Follow-up on animal-related calls, such as locating owners of injured animals.
- (d) Tasks identified in the Colorado Animal Protection Act (CRS § 35-42-101 et seq.).

806.3 MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

Members who respond to or assist with animal-related calls for service should evaluate the situation to determine appropriate actions to control the situation.

Due to the hazards of handling animals without proper training and equipment, responding members generally should not attempt to capture and pick up any animal, but should keep the animal under observation until the arrival of appropriate assistance.

Members may consider acting before the arrival of such assistance when:

- (a) There is a threat to public safety.
- (b) An animal has bitten someone. Members should take measures to confine the animal and prevent further injury.
- (c) An animal is creating a traffic hazard.
- (d) An animal is seriously injured.
- (e) The owner/handler of an animal has been arrested or is incapacitated. In such circumstances, the member should notify Animal Control for appropriate placement for the animal.
 - (a) This is only necessary when the arrestee is expected to be in custody for a time period longer than would reasonably allow him/her to properly care for the animal.
 - (b) With the owner's consent, locating appropriate placement may require contacting relatives or neighbors to care for the animal.
 - (c) If no person can be found or the owner does not or cannot give consent, the animal should be given to Animal Control.

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806.4 DECEASED ANIMALS

When a member becomes aware of a deceased animal, all reasonable attempts should be made to preliminarily determine if the death of the animal is related to criminal activity. Animal Control should be notified of the deceased animal and request the animal be recovered and disposed of.

Members should not climb onto or under any privately owned structure for the purpose of removing a deceased animal.

806.5 INJURED ANIMALS

When a member becomes aware of an injured domesticated animal, all reasonable attempts shall be made to contact the owner or responsible handler. If an owner or responsible handler cannot be located, Animal Control will be notified to respond.

806.6 POLICY

It is the policy of the Colorado State University Police Department to be responsive to the needs of the community regarding animal-related issues. This includes enforcing local, state and federal laws relating to animals and appropriately resolving or referring animal-related problems, as outlined in this policy.

806.7 ANIMAL CRUELTY COMPLAINTS

Laws relating to the cruelty to animals should be enforced, including but not limited to CRS § 18-9-202 et seq.

- (a) An investigation should be conducted on all reports of animal cruelty.
- (b) Legal steps should be taken to protect an animal that is in need of immediate care or protection from acts of cruelty.

806.8 ANIMAL BITE REPORTS

Members investigating an animal bite should obtain as much information as possible for follow-up with the appropriate health or animal authorities. If practical, efforts should be made to capture or otherwise have the animal placed under control. Members should attempt to identify and notify the owner of the final disposition of the animal.

If a biting animal has been destroyed (see Destruction of Animals section) in order to prevent further injury or death, Animal Control will be notified of the facts related to the bite and the destruction, and the body of the animal shall be held for release to the board of health (6 CCR 1009-1:1).

806.9 STRAY ANIMALS

If the animal has a license or can otherwise be identified, the owner should be contacted, if possible. If the owner is contacted, the animal should be released to the owner and a citation may be issued, if appropriate. If an animal is taken into custody, Animal Control will be notified.

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Members shall provide reasonable treatment to animals in their care (e.g., food, water, shelter).

806.10 DANGEROUS ANIMALS

In the event responding members cannot fulfill a request for service because an animal is difficult or dangerous to handle, the member will request the assistance of animal control services.

806.11 PUBLIC NUISANCE CALLS RELATING TO ANIMALS

Members should diligently address calls related to nuisance animals (e.g., barking dogs), because such calls may involve significant quality-of-life issues. Animal Control will be notified and asked to respond to the incident.

806.12 DESTRUCTION OF ANIMALS

When it is necessary to use a firearm to euthanize a badly injured animal or stop an animal that poses an imminent threat to human safety, the Firearms Policy shall be followed. A badly injured animal shall only be euthanized with the approval of a supervisor. In addition, neighboring law enforcement agencies will be notified through the Communications Center of the use of a firearm to dispatch an animal.