



Approved:  
*Chief Marcia Harnden*

Subject:

# 650. Animal Control

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## 650.1: 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.

## 650.2: POLICY

**It is the policy of the Albany 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.**

## 650.3: COMMUNITY RESOURCE UNIT RESPONSIBILITIES

Animal control services are generally the primary responsibility of Community Service Officers and include the following:

- a. Animal-related matters during periods when Community Service Officers are available.
- b. Ongoing or persistent animal nuisance complaints. Such complaints may be scheduled, if reasonable, for handling during periods when Community Service Officers are available for investigation and resolution.
- c. Follow-up on animal-related calls, such as locating owners of injured animals.

## 650.4: MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

- a. Members who respond to or assist with animal-related calls for service should evaluate the situation and determine appropriate actions to control the situation.
- b. Due to the hazards of handling animals without proper training and equipment, the responding officer generally should not attempt to capture and pick up any animal but should keep the animal under observation until the arrival of appropriate assistance.
- c. Members may consider acting before the arrival of such assistance when:

- 1) There is a threat to public safety.
- 2) An animal has bitten someone. Members should take measures to confine the animal and prevent further injury.
- 3) An animal is creating a traffic hazard.
- 4) An animal is seriously injured.
- 5) The owner/handler has been arrested or is incapacitated. In such circumstances, the member should find 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 taken to a designated animal care facility.

#### **650.5: 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, the animal should be taken to a designated animal care facility.

#### **650.5.1: INJURED WILDLIFE**

Injured wildlife should be referred to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife or Oregon State Police, Fish and Wildlife Division unless the animal is creating a traffic hazard or is a threat to public safety.

#### **650.6: DECEASED ANIMALS**

- a. 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.
- b. Deceased animals on public property should be removed, sealed in a plastic bag and properly disposed of by the responding member.
- c. Members should not climb onto or under any privately owned structure for the purpose of removing a deceased animal.

**650.7: DANGEROUS ANIMALS**

In the event responding members cannot fulfill a request for service because an animal is difficult or dangerous to handle, the Shift Supervisor will be contacted to determine available resources, including requesting the assistance of animal control services from an allied agency.

**650.8: STRAY DOGS**

- a. If the dog has a license or can otherwise be identified, the owner should be contacted, if possible. If the owner is contacted, the dog should be released to the owner and a citation may be issued, if appropriate. If a dog is taken into custody, it shall be transported to the appropriate shelter/holding pen.
- b. Members shall provide reasonable treatment to animals in their care (e.g., food, water, shelter).

**650.9 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.

**650.10: ANIMAL BITE REPORTS**

Members investigating an animal bite should obtain as much information as possible for follow-up with the appropriate health and/or animal authorities. 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.

**650.11: ANIMAL CRUELTY COMPLAINTS**

Laws relating to the cruelty to animals should be enforced, including but not limited to those cited in [ORS 133.379](#) (animal abuse, animal neglect).

- 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.
- c. Members who lawfully seize an animal shall comply with the notice requirements of [ORS 167.345](#).

**650.12: 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 0270](#) shall be followed. A badly injured animal shall only be euthanized with the approval of a supervisor.