


Boulder Police Department Policy and Procedure

	Subject: Animal Protection	General Order: 241
	Effective: September 19, 2024 Reviewed: June 21, 2024	Replaces: GO 241 September 17, 2018
General Order Topic(s): 241-1 Training 241-2 Training Manual 241-3 Authority 241-4 Response Guidelines 241-5 Dead Deer 241-6 DEA License 241-7 Euthanasia 241-8 Housing and Emergency Animal Care 241-9 Rabies Tags/Licensing 241-10 Enforcement 241-11 Animal Abuse Investigations 241-12 Animal Protection Staffing After-Hours 241-13 Uniforms and Equipment 241-14 Authorized Less Lethal Weapons 241-15 Use of Force Reports		Accreditation Standard(s): LE 4.1.4, LE 4.2.1 Statutory References: C.R.S 30-15-105, 25-4-601, 29-5-112 B.R.C. 6-1-1 thru 6-1-41 Related General Orders: GO 225 Use of Force

POLICY

It is the policy of the Boulder Police Department to respond to animal-related complaints received by the department and to enforce the Colorado Revised Statutes and Boulder Revised Codes that apply to domestic animals. The department’s Animal Protection Unit is primarily responsible for responding to and investigating animal-related complaints. Response to animal complaints is prioritized in direct relation to the threat to public safety and animal welfare. Animal protection officers (APO) and police officers may, at times, respond to animal-related complaints involving wildlife when public safety concerns are present; however, wildlife calls (except as specifically stated in B.R.C.) may also be handled by Colorado Parks and Wildlife officers. APOs also provide education to the public on matters concerning animal welfare and applicable laws and ordinances.

PROCEDURES

241-1 Training

The department trains new APOs through authorized department training and a field training program. Periodic refresher and advanced training are also provided by the department or other approved entity. APOs will acquire state certification through the Animal Welfare Association of Colorado within one year from their date of hire.

241-2 Training Manual

A protocol and training manual with specific guidelines for various call types should be referred to as necessary. The manual will be updated and/or revised as needed and available for APOs, police officers, and supervisors.

241-3 Authority

APO's are granted a limited commission by the city manager to enforce ordinances under the Boulder Revised Code. The limited commission allows APOs to issue Boulder municipal summonses. APOs who have obtained commission through the Department of Agriculture can issue animal-related misdemeanor state criminal charges. All other state criminal summonses are issued by police officers.

241-4 Response Guidelines

- A. Normally, APOs will handle calls in order of priority based on public safety and animal welfare concerns. Animal Protection (AP) may respond to situations where small wildlife (skunks, foxes, squirrels, etc.) are creating a nuisance. The caller may be referred to a private pest management provider. If the animal is displaying signs of illness (e.g. rabies or distemper), is severely injured or is dangerous (e.g. rattlesnake in a home), APOs and/or police officers will respond to properly contain, relocate or euthanize the animal. APOs and/or police officers will respond to calls posing a threat to public safety involving large wildlife such as mountain lions and bears to assist Colorado Parks and Wildlife Officers and ensure public well-being. Animal complaint calls generally will be dispatched and handled according to these priorities:
1. Vicious animals, including a bite in progress;
 2. Injured/sick stray domestic animals or animals in jeopardy (e.g. locked in a vehicle in extreme weather);
 3. Animal bite involving domestic or wild animals;
 4. Assist police officers with animal problems;
 5. Injured/ill wildlife (e.g. raccoon with distemper);
 6. Animals at large
 7. Animals in custody;
 8. Barking dogs/animal nuisance complaints; and
 9. Other animal complaints in violation of B.R.C.
 10. APOs will respond to calls of non-domestic dead animals on public property except for city streets and multi-use paths.
 - a. Public Works has primary responsibility for collection of these dead animals on public right of way including city streets and multi-use paths.
 - b. On private property, the animal owner or private landowner is responsible for proper disposal of non-domestic dead animals, except for deer.
 - c. Dead domestic animals will be handled by APOs.
- B. APOs will work in cooperation with the Boulder County Health Department to facilitate pick-up and testing of species that present a public safety concern due to the presence of disease.

241-5 Dead Deer

Removal and disposal of dead deer within the city of Boulder is administered by a private contractor retained by the department.

241-6 DEA License

The police department will maintain a current DEA license for the use of sodium pentobarbital and other controlled substances. The controlled substances will be stored, and their usage will be documented in accordance with state and federal guidelines.

241-7 Euthanasia

APOs who have undergone, and successfully completed departmental training are authorized to euthanize sick/injured/diseased wildlife and sedate domestic animals. Vehicles are equipped with the narcotics and proper equipment to safely and humanely sedate or euthanize injured/ill/sick wildlife or sedate domestic animals that pose a safety issue to the public. When an officer determines it is necessary and appropriate, they can sedate an animal for capture, restraint or euthanasia in the cases of wildlife.

241-8 Housing and Emergency Animal Care

- A. The city maintains a contract with the Humane Society of Boulder Valley for housing impounded animals and for the emergency care of animals during normal business hours. The city maintains a separate contract with an after-hours veterinary clinic for emergency care occurring after normal business hours.
- B. Community members or officers, on occasion, will bring injured stray animals to the contracted after-hours emergency animal care facility. The city's agreement with the designated emergency care facility states that the veterinary clinic is authorized to keep the injured animal stable and comfortable without using extreme or invasive measures. Officers or supervisors are not to approve extreme or invasive measures. If the animal has identification, efforts shall be made to contact the animal's guardian. Once the guardian has been contacted, he or she is responsible for treatment decisions. State law requires that an injured animal with identification must be held for 24 hours before a veterinarian may decide to euthanize it to relieve suffering. If no identification is located, the veterinarian may euthanize the animal if they deem the animal is suffering.

241-9 Rabies Tags/Licensing

Animal Protection and Open Space and Mountain Parks are responsible for the issuance of animal licenses and maintain the license database. The license database is accessible to police officers and APO's.

241-10 Enforcement

- A. When APOs or police officers determine there is probable cause that a violation of the animal ordinances under B.R.C or C.R.S. has occurred (except those requiring warnings prior to summons), the officer may, depending on the circumstance:
 1. Issue a state summons;
 2. Issue a municipal summons;

3. Issue a written warning;
 4. Refer to bite diversion; or
 5. Issue a verbal warning.
- B. In situations where an APO believes their safety is in jeopardy or a warrant is discovered, a police officer will respond to assist. In cases where a warrant is necessary, an APO will seek assistance from detectives.
 - C. Any officer may impound an animal in violation of any provision of Boulder Revised Code Chapter 1 of Title 6, except 6-1-17 “Animals on the Mall Prohibited,” 6-1-18, “Removal of Animal Excrement Required”, or 6-1-23 “Disposition of Dead Animals.”
 - D. Officers shall impound or confine any dog, cat or ferret that has bitten a person subject to the requirements of CRS.25-4-601 and 6-1-24 BRC.

241-11 Animal Abuse Investigations

Complaints of animal abuse that are violations of the Boulder Revised Code or Colorado Revised Statutes are investigated by APOs. Animal abuse cases may be investigated in collaboration with the detective section. Police officers or detectives may be called to assist APOs with other investigations as needed.

241-12 Animal Protection Staffing After-Hours

- A. In the event of a high priority AP call occurring outside normal working hours, the call will be dispatched to a police officer. APOs will provide periodic training to police officers regarding handling animals and proper tools and techniques.
- B. APOs will not be on call outside of normal working hours. The AP supervisor may be available by pager or phone to consult with dispatch or police officers regarding animal complaints.

241-13 Uniforms and Equipment

The police department provides APOs with approved uniforms, ballistic vests, personal defense weapons and the necessary animal handling equipment. The department does not provide undergarments or footwear. Ballistic vests shall be worn anytime an APO is in uniform.

Upon completion of approved training, APOs will be issued pepper spray, batons and conducted energy devices for personal defense. Employees are trained in the proper use and care of these items before they can carry them. APOs shall carry department-issued and approved pepper spray, baton and TEW when in uniform.

The department trains APOs and police officers on the proper use and care of animal handling equipment. Officers are authorized to use only those equipment items for which they have been trained.

241-14 Authorized Less Lethal Weapons¹

- A. APOs who have undergone and successfully completed departmental training are authorized to carry and use the following against an attacking or dangerous animal

¹ CALEA 4.1.4

or in self-defense against a person consistent with the guidelines in G.O. 225:

1. OC Spray
2. Baton
3. Taser Electrical Weapon (TEW)

B. APOs who have successfully completed department-authorized training, may discharge a less-lethal shotgun, using department-authorized ammunition, to haze wildlife in accordance with their training.

241-15 Use of Force Reports²

Any use of force against a person must be documented in an incident report and a departmental use of force form. Any use of force against a domestic animal where OC, an impact weapon, a TEW or a less-lethal impact weapon was used, and the animal sustains severe injury or death, must be documented in an incident report and a departmental animal use of force form. The documentation will be given to their immediate supervisor or sergeant if their supervisor is unavailable. The incident will be reviewed in accordance with GO 225.

² CALEA 4.2.1 b, c, d