

Greer Police Department General Order 940

ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES

This order consists of the following numbered sections:

- I. ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER
- II. COMMUNICATIONS / PATROL RESPONSIBILITIES
- III. CARE OF ANIMALS IN POSSESSION OF ANIMAL CONTROL
- IV. EQUIPMENT/TRAINING

July 2, 2023
CALEA 33.4.4

I. ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

- A. The Animal Control Officer is under the supervision of the OSD Commander.
- B. Duties of the Animal Control Officer are the enforcement of the City of Greer's Animal Control Ordinance; responding to calls for service regarding animals; and providing care for animals under the City of Greer's custody.
- C. The Animal Control Officer is a certified Class 3 officer with limited arrest powers associated with those specific duties related to the Animal Control laws or ordinances. The Animal Control Officer may also issue citations or petition the court for warrants related to those specific duties only.
- D. The Animal Control Officer is responsible for notifying Communications when he begins and ends his tour of duty and when he will not be available due to vacation, training, etc. He is to notify Patrol via the Roll Call pass along when he will be gone during his regular duty rotation.

II. COMMUNICATIONS / PATROL RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. While the Department has only one employee designated as an Animal Control Officer, the services of Animal Control is a full time responsibility of the Police Department. Just as Patrol responds to a traffic collision if there isn't a Traffic Officer on duty; when the public calls with an animal problem, the Police Department needs to respond. Similarly, just as there are traffic collisions that call for the expertise of a trained traffic officer, not all animal calls can be completely resolved by Patrol.
- B. When the Animal Control Officer is Off Duty
 - 1. When the Animal Control Officer is off duty, Police Officers should respond to animal calls, assess the situation and if possible, resolve the situation. If applicable, citations such as barking dogs or allowing dogs to roam can be issued by the Patrol Officer on the scene rather than refer it to Animal Control.
 - 2. If the situation requires specialized equipment or experience and is in need of immediate resolution, such as a loose, vicious dog threatening the public and is beyond the ability of the Police Officer to resolve **safely**, the Animal Control Officer should be contacted with the approval of the Shift Supervisor. If the Animal Control Officer is not available for response, Communications should contact the County Animal Control to request assistance.
 - 3. If an animal is injured and the officer can handle it, the animal should be taken to Blue Ridge Animal Hospital. If the animal cannot be moved due to the severity of the injury or the disposition of the animal, or if Blue Ridge Animal Hospital is closed, the on-duty supervisor should contact the LOD to discuss the appropriate options. If a Veterinarian cannot be contacted, and the Supervisor decides that the animal should be destroyed due to the extent of its injuries, refer to General Order 520.1: Use of Force; Section VI, 8, a.b.c.

- C. Police Officers are to check the kennel once per shift on weekends, holidays and when the Animal Control Officer is on vacation or at training. Animals housed are to be fed, watered and their runs hosed down daily. If a Police Officer places an animal in the kennel, the information regarding the case number and the location where the animal was recovered should be written on the whiteboard at the kennel or the Animal Control Officer can deal with the disposition of the animal upon his return. A notation will also be made on the patrol daily that a dog has been placed at the kennel.
- D. Animal control calls for service requiring response are to be dispatched to the Animal Control Officer via the radio when the Animal Control Officer is on duty. **Communicators should inquire as to the nature of any call for service regarding animals before the call is routed to the voice mail of the Animal Control Officer.** If the call is for information only, such as locating a lost dog or a court case, the call may be routed to the Animal Control Officer's voice mail and the caller advised that he will return their call as soon as possible, or the information may be documented and placed in the Animal Control Officer's mail box in Communications.

All other animal calls, such as reports of an animal threatening people or other animals, an injured, abused or abandoned animal, an animal in the roadway impeding traffic, barking dogs, nuisance animals, etc. require a response. If the Animal Control Officer is off duty Communications will send a Police Officer to investigate and determine the best course of action and advise the complainant of same.

E. Animal Bite Calls

State law requires that the owner of an animal that has bitten a person must show proof that the animal has a current rabies vaccination (either a tag or a certificate). If proof cannot be shown, the animal must be impounded immediately. If the animal does have a current rabies vaccination, it may be left with the owner who must confine the animal for 10 days.

If a police officer responds to an animal bite call when the Animal Control Officer is not on duty, they must see proof of a current rabies vaccination before clearing the call. If the owner cannot show proof, the officer must take the animal to our Animal Control Facility. If the officer is unable to handle the animal, they can request the owner follow them to the Facility and place the animal in an appropriate cage, or call the Animal Control Officer to respond and assist. If the owner can locate the required proof, they can meet with Animal Control and claim their animal.

An Incident Report must be completed on all animal bite calls and the Animal Control Officer notified as soon as possible. A copy of the Incident Report should be forwarded to Animal Control.

III. CARE OF ANIMALS IN POSSESSION OF ANIMAL CONTROL

- A. Prior to placement in the kennel, animals with obvious injuries or signs of illness or malnourishment should be taken to Blue Ridge Animal Hospital for evaluation and treatment.
- B. Animals obviously under the age of 8 weeks should be taken to Blue Ridge for evaluation and housing.
- C. If an animal is housed in the Animal Control Facility and begins to show signs of illness or injury it should be taken to Blue Ridge for evaluation and treatment.

- D. Animals taken to Blue Ridge Animal Hospital for evaluation and/or treatment may be immediately treated for injuries and illness and to relieve suffering. If the animal is ill, or shows signs of ill treatment and/or malnourishment the animal may be tested for underlying conditions such as heartworms, intestinal worms, poisoning, etc.
- E. Animals may be groomed if their coat or nail condition is causing suffering or is necessary for treatment of injuries or illness. Flea or tick treatment may be applied if the parasite load is causing suffering or illness.
- F. Animals requiring rabies vaccinations should receive it unless other health problems or age does not permit vaccination at that time or the animal, due to temperament or injury/illness, will be euthanized.
- G. Animals without identifiable and contactable owners that are deemed unable to recover from their injuries or illness may, at the discretion of the attending Veterinarian, be humanly euthanized. If an owner can be identified, and contacted within a reasonable period of time, the course of treatment is at the owner's discretion. However, at no time should an animal be allowed to suffer and should be given pain relief or sedation until a decision on future care has been made.
- H. Routine annual physicals, routine grooming, routine worming, neutering or spaying, and vaccinations (other than rabies) should not be given to Animal Control animals. Boarding is limited to very young animals in need of more care than can be given at the Animal Control Facility, small animals, and to animals receiving treatment for injuries and illness. Animals should be released to Animal Control as soon as possible after treatment.
- I. No animal is to be returned to the owner from the Veterinarian's office without the approval of the Animal Control Officer
- J. These guidelines are subject to modification on a case by case basis and at the discretion of the attending Veterinarian

IV. EQUIPMENT / TRAINING

- A. As a Class 3 officer of the Police Department, the Animal Control Officer must attend all mandatory training related to that classification, position, and employee of the City of Greer and Greer Police Department.
- B. The Animal Control Officer must maintain training and certification in any equipment used in the performance of his duties.
- C. The Animal Control Officer will maintain and secure all equipment such as catch poles, traps, dart gun in locked areas in his office, at the kennel, or in his vehicle.
- D. Tranquilizing drugs must be obtained from a licensed Veterinarian when required. They are not to be stored long term by the Animal Control Officer and should be obtained as close to the time of use as possible. Drugs not used during a capture must be returned to the Veterinarian if not used and any left over drugs destroyed immediately. The Animal Control Officer may store an antidote to the tranquilizing drugs and hypodermic needles to administer it. These items are kept in locked areas in his vehicle or office.