

	STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE State Form 39870(R/S-06)	Reference Number ENF-011
	Subject Destruction of Severely Injured Animals	
	Special Instructions Replaces ENF-011 dated January 15, 2015	Effective Date November 18, 2020

I. PURPOSE

Establish guidelines for the destruction of severely injured animals found along the roadways.

II. POLICY

Severely injured animals that cannot possibly survive and require destruction shall be destroyed according to the following procedures and documented on a Police Action Report (located in Shield: Select “Other”, “Sworn” then “Police Action Report”).

III. PROCEDURES

A. The responding officer shall attempt to contact the owner or responsible person of the animal to obtain a decision of disposition.

B. If the owner cannot be located and destruction of the animal is necessary, the destruction shall take place only if the area provides the highest level of safety in order to prevent injury to the public and the officer and to prevent damage to other property.

C. If the animal cannot be safely destroyed at the location, the officer shall utilize the most efficient humane means to remove the animal to a place where the animal may be safely destroyed protecting both the officer and the public from injury by the animal.

D. The animal shall be destroyed, using either the Department-issued primary or secondary duty handgun, issued shotgun, issued rifle or “non-issued rifle” as defined in [TRA-001 Department Firearms Training Program](#), by placing a shot to the head in such a manner as to penetrate the brain (see [illustrations](#)).

1. In the case of a deer, place the shot in the ear canal with a handgun, or

2. In the chest area with the Department-issued shotgun, or

3. In the ear canal or chest (vital organs) with the Department-issued rifle or “non-issued rifle”

Note: Officers should use their best judgment in determining which issued weapon to utilize.

Dependent on the situation, the preferred weapon would be the issued primary or secondary duty handgun. If the injured animal prevents the officer from delivering a shot from a relatively short distance, the issued shotgun, issued rifle or “non-issued rifle” may be used. Regardless, the

officer shall use an appropriate backstop. Consideration should also be given to the safety of the public and property affected by possible frag, ricochet, etc.

E. In the event the animal is suspected to be rabid, the shot should be directed at the base of the skull and into the spinal column, or directed into the heart.

NOTE: The testing of suspected rabid animals is conducted on the brain.

F. The appropriate county or state department of transportation shall be notified by the district duty officer of the location of the carcass so it can be picked up.

G. Whenever an officer uses a firearm to destroy an animal, the officer shall complete a Police Action Report, per [ENF-012 Police Action Report or Vehicle Pursuit](#).

H. This procedure is to be used in conjunction with all relevant Department regulations, rules, policies and procedures.