

MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

GENERAL ORDER

Subject: ANIMAL CONTROL PROCEDURES	General Order: 1235
Effective Date: August 15, 2000 Revision Date: August 11, 2016	Distribution: All Employees

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this general order is to establish a procedure for handling stray, injured or vicious animals.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of the Meridian Township Police Department to protect our community by assisting in the containment of stray or dangerous animals. The safety of our citizens and officers is paramount. The proper handling and protection of the animal is also necessary.

Animals shall not be brought to the Department or tied up at the Department awaiting pickup. The preferred disposition of these animals is to have Ingham County Animal Control pick up the animal at the scene for transport to their facility. Animals taken into custody must be properly delivered to Ingham County Animal Control personnel or secured in the Ingham County Animal Control facility.

III. PROCEDURES

- A. When officers are dispatched to an animal complaint, their first concern will be the safety of the citizens and officers present.
 - 1. Stray animals should be turned over to the Ingham County Animal Control as promptly as possible.
 - a. When possible, Ingham County Animal Control personnel will be summoned to the scene to contain and take charge of the animal.
 - 2. The following steps should be followed in resolving the status of a stray animal.
 - a. Inquire with dispatch and department staff whether they have any reports of a lost animal matching the description of the animal in question. If the owner is not located, request dispatch and the cadets to log the animal in their "Lost and Found" animal book or pass-along log.
 - b. If applicable, stray dogs and cats may be taken to one of the Township's Veterinary Clinics for scan of a microchip.

- c. During business hours, request Animal Control to pick up the animal at its current location.
 - d. After regular business hours, request the finder to secure the animal until Animal Control can pick up, as long as it is not dangerous, injured, or aggressive.
 - e. If, after hours, the finder cannot detain the animal, and if time/personnel permit, transport the animal to the shelter or drop-off kennel. Officers shall not transport any animal that is dangerous or aggressive that could threaten the safety of that officer. Contact Animal Control in these circumstances for a call-out response. **Supervisory approval is required prior to transporting an animal.**
 - 3. Vicious or threatening domestic animals should be contained, when reasonable to do so, and Ingham County Animal Control personnel called to the scene for apprehension of the animal.
 - 4. Investigation of Animal Complaints

Officers will respond to service calls regarding animal cruelty, dog bites, etc. If, upon evaluation of the information, further action is warranted, Ingham County Animal Control should be notified to respond for investigation, apprehension and/or quarantine of the animal involved.

 - a. The responding officer will document their actions in a written report.
- B. Criteria for Animal Control call out other than normal patrol calls include:
 - 1. Livestock in the roadway
 - 2. Dog bite with the animal loose
 - 3. Any serious bite
 - 4. Assist to the Police Department when there is an arrest and there is an animal in the vehicle and no other person to reasonably take responsibility for the animal.
- C. Ingham County Animal Control Contact Info:
 - 1. Ingham County Animal Control Police Dispatch (517) 676-8310
 - a. Enforcement Hours (subject to change)

Monday	0730 -1530 hours
Tuesday – Friday	0730 -1930 hours
Saturday	0800 -1600 hours

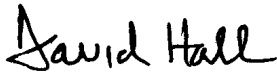
- b. Regular Shelter Hours
 - Tuesday-Wednesday 1200-1800 hours
 - Thursday-Saturday 1100-1600 hours
- 2. Location of drop-off kennel
 - a. The address is 600 Curtis Street in Mason south of the Ingham County Sheriff's Department. There is a drop-off kennel behind the shelter that can be reached by police personnel only. Officers must enter through a secured gate where Ingham County Sheriff's Department patrol vehicles are parked.
 - b. To access the drop-off kennel, officers will need to use the telephone provided at the secured gate to gain access to the outdoor kennel.
 - c. When the officer drops off the animal at the kennel, there is a black mailbox with a form inside. The officer must complete the form and return it to the mailbox.
 - d. Please leave a message at (517) 676-8377 with additional information/ questions or if no forms are available.
- D. Destruction of dangerous animals or injured wild animals.
 - 1. Dangerous animals may be destroyed to defend the safety of a person in accord with General Order 801, Use of Force.
 - 2. Injured wild animals may be destroyed in accord with the provisions of General Order 802, Use of Weapons.
 - 3. Injured domestic animals shall be turned over to the animal's owner, Ingham County Animal Control personnel or as a last resort, MSU Small Animal Clinic, if Ingham County Animal Control is not available.
 - 4. Injured nondomestic animals, with the exception of raccoons, may be transported to MSU Small Animal Clinic, 736 Wilson, East Lansing, 24 hours a day, if the officer feels comfortable with transporting.
(517) 353-5420
 - 5. Treatment of domestic animals will be the preferred disposition over destruction of the animal.
 - 6. Supervisory approval is required prior to destroying a domestic animal.

- E. Additional options for treatment of injured nondomestic animals.
 - a. Organizations such as the Nottingham Equestrian Farm located at 16848 Towar Ave, East Lansing may be used when available. (517) 351-7304. They will take in injured birds, mammals, including fawns, however not raccoons.
- 1. Officers shall not authorize payment for treatment of any animal not owned by the Department.

IV. CANCELLATIONS

None

Authorized by:



David Hall, Chief of Police

Index as:

Animal Control Procedures
Stray Animals

Application: This directive constitutes department policy, and is not intended to enlarge the employer's or employee's civil or criminal liability in any way. It shall not be construed as the creation of a higher legal standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense with respect to third party claims insofar as the employer's or employee's legal duty as imposed by law.