

	<b>PARADISE VALLEY POLICE GENERAL ORDER</b>  <b>Animals</b>	Order Number
		<b>41.16</b>  Date <b>04-01-14</b>

## 41.16 Animals

- A. Cruelty to animals is a violation of state law. *Officers should* be familiar with those statutes that criminalize acts against animals (A.R.S. § 13-2910 through A.R.S. § 13-2910.12) and be prepared to investigate such crimes.
- B. A number of agencies oversee animals and wildlife in Arizona, including Maricopa County Animal Care and Control, Arizona Humane Society, as well as the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) (native and exotic wildlife, dangerous or biting wildlife, and dangerous reptiles), Arizona Department of Agriculture (livestock, poultry, commercially raised fish) and the Livestock Sanitary Board (livestock).
- C. Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) has a website that provides extensive information about specific urban wildlife, see, [www.azgfd.gov/urbanwildlife](http://www.azgfd.gov/urbanwildlife). Generally, wildlife calls *should* be directed to the local AGFD Office.
- D. *Officers should* make an effort to corral or tie-up loose livestock, or restrict its movement to a safe area. If the owner cannot be identified or located, the Livestock Sanitary Board *may* be contacted. *Officers shall* not destroy large animals except in an *emergency*. Only Livestock Sanitary Board Officers are to handle this duty.
- E. *Officers should* take care when responding to any wild or rabid animal call. Rabid animals *shall* be placed under observation as required by state law and an animal control agency called to respond. If it is necessary to kill the animal, an effort *should* be made to avoid injuring the head (brain) of the animal, so that rabies testing *may* ultimately be able to be completed.
- F. Any person bitten by an animal *should* be advised to immediately consult a *physician*.

### 41.16.1 Bats, Bees and Snakes

The most common wild animal calls relate to bats, bees and snakes.

Bats can be rabid and *should* not be handled by *Department personnel* unless the health and welfare of the public is in jeopardy. Bats *shall* not be handled without gloves and, when possible, a cloth wrapped around the bat. Persons who seek the removal of bat colonies *shall* be referred to AGFD.



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Bees *may* swarm and become extraordinarily aggressive; Africanized bees *may* attack people or animals. Bee related emergencies *may* be referred to the Phoenix Fire Department.

Snake removal is not performed by this agency. Homeowners can be referred to a private pest control companies or the Arizona Herpetological Association.

#### **41.16.2 Animals Secured in Vehicles During Hot Weather**

A.R.S. § 13-2910 specifically permits a peace *officer* to use reasonable force to open a vehicle to rescue an animal if the animal is left in a vehicle in circumstances in which physical injury or death is likely to result. *Officers* who discover animals secured inside vehicles in the heat *will* make a reasonable effort to locate the owner. If no owner can be located, and it appears that the animal is in distress, *officers may* use reasonable force to enter the vehicle to rescue the animal.

#### **41.16.3 Destruction of Animals**

The destruction of animals *may* be permissible if the animal is severely injured or dangerous to persons and there is no other practical solution. The destruction of these animals *shall* be done with due regard to the safety of persons and property.