

Animal Control

450.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for members when dealing with animal control related calls for service and to set forth procedures regarding animal control services, the handling of injured animals and the abatement of animal nuisances.

In addition to any animal control policies described in this Policy, sworn members and Animal Control Officers shall also familiarize themselves with more detailed supplemental information and training procedures related to animal control issues as outlined in the following manuals which can be located on the department network in the F: Drive in the Volunteer folder (*F:\PatrolDivision\Animal Control*).

- Coeur d'Alene Police Animal Control Training Procedures Manual; and
- Procedures for Patrol Officers Impounding Animals

450.2 ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER RESPONSIBILITY

The Animal Control Officer (ACO) shall be responsible for enforcement of City ordinances relating to animals, and for appropriately resolving animal problems. ACO's are not sworn members and therefore can only enforce City ordinance violations which are punishable by a civil penalty. ACO's may initially investigate criminal animal related reports but any official charging action must be done either by a criminal complaint through the prosecutor's office or by an arrest or citation by a sworn member when practical.

The ACO's assigned working hours will be scheduled by the Operations Division Commander or his designee.

450.3 SWORN MEMBER RESPONSIBILITY

The primary responsibility for related calls for service will be with the on duty ACO, although members of the Uniformed Patrol Division will still be responsible to assist the ACO when necessary, and respond to any animal related calls for service when the ACO is off duty or not immediately available. Sworn members shall familiarize themselves with all applicable City ordinances related to Animals.

When an ACO is not on duty, sworn members may be responsible for responding to and completing any animal related call for service, including but not limited to: enforcement of local or state laws, writing incident reports and/or impounding animals.

- Members may contain animals in the back seat of a patrol car if the animal can safely be detained or they can use an ACO truck if available. Detained animals that can not be immediately returned to their owners shall be transported to the designated impound facility.

Due to the hazards of handling animals without proper equipment, responding members generally should not attempt to capture or pick up any animal without having the necessary equipment available. If an off duty ACO vehicle has been left at the department, a member may either take the ACO vehicle or the necessary equipment from the ACO vehicle to the call to assist in safely capturing an animal. Examples of when sworn members may need to consider acting immediately if no ACO is immediately available to respond:

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- When there is a threat to public safety;
- When an animal has bitten someone, members should take measures to confine the animal to prevent further injury;
- When an animal is a traffic hazard;
- When the owner/handler has been arrested and there is no other alternative placement for the animal;
- When the animal is gravely disabled.

In emergency circumstances, an off duty ACO may be called in to assist with impounding an animal with approval of the Shift Commander.

The Procedures for Patrol Officers Impounding Animals is available as a guideline to assist sworn members when impounding animals and/or issuing civil citations under these circumstances, including how to access the designated impound facility after normal business hours. The Animal Control Training Procedure Manual can also be referred to for assistance.

450.4 ANIMAL CRUELTY COMPLAINTS

ACO and/or sworn members shall investigate reports of animal cruelty.

Generally the ACO will handle most of these types of investigations, including any required follow-up on reports initially taken by sworn members, although sworn members may take any immediate action, including enforcement and/or impoundments of an animal when necessary.

450.5 STRAY ANIMALS

Stray dogs are generally the only domesticated animal that this department will respond to. Members who respond to a report of stray dog and are able to contain it, shall first attempt to identify an owner prior to impounding it. Identification attempts can be done via checking a City dog license tag, owner identification tag, rabies tag or by scanning for a microchip. Neighbors in the area of where the dog was contained may also know who owns the dog.

If the owner is identified and located, the dog may be returned to the owner. The member has the discretion on whether or not to issue the owner a civil citation.

If an owner of the dog can not be immediately identified or located, the dog shall be impounded and transported to the designated impound facility and the standard operating procedures for the issuance of citations and completion of related reports will be followed.

450.5.1 ANIMAL BITE REPORTS

Incident reports will be completed anytime a member receives a report of person being bitten by an animal. If the owner/custodian of the animal is known and can be contacted, they shall be informed the animal must be properly confined and restrained on their premise until appropriate follow-up by an ACO can be completed regarding rabies vaccinations, quarantined, declarations of viciousness, etc. If the animal can not be safely confined on the owner's premises', the animal shall be impounded and quarantined at the designated impound facility.

450.5.2 DECEASED ANIMALS

Deceased animals on public property will be removed and properly disposed of by an ACO or sworn member. In most cases, disposal will take place at the County landfill during

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business hours, but care should first be taken to try and identify a possible owner of a domestic animal by checking for dog tags or scanning for a microchip.

At no time shall any deceased animal be placed in the back seat of a patrol vehicle. Deceased animals requiring immediate removal will only be transported in the back of an ACO vehicle.

- For health and sanitary reasons, deceased animals should be placed in a sealed plastic bag prior to placing in the ACO vehicle.
- Deceased animals shall not be left in the back of an ACO vehicle by sworn members if an ACO is not on duty.
- No member shall be required to climb onto or under any privately owned structure for the purpose of removing a deceased animal.

Deceased large game animals on public property, such as deer or moose, should first be referred to the Idaho Fish Game and Department for removal. In the event that Fish and Game is unable to respond in a reasonable amount of time, the City Street Department can be requested to respond to remove the animal.

450.6 PUBLIC NUISANCE CALLS RELATED TO ANIMALS

Members shall respond to complaints of nuisance animals, including but not limited to: barking, loose and/or vicious dogs. Appropriate enforcement action may be taken by either an ACO or a sworn member. In the event a nuisance call can not be satisfactorily completed by a sworn member, the call and/or incident report should be forwarded to the ACO for follow-up when they return to duty.

450.7 INJURED ANIMALS

When any injured domesticated animal is brought to the attention of a member of this department, all reasonable attempts shall be made to contact the owner or a responsible handler. When an owner or handler cannot be located and the animal is in need of veterinarian care, the ACO shall be notified to handle the call as per their standard operating procedures and/or the City's contract with the designated impound facility.

Injured domesticated animals that may need to be euthanized should first be considered for transport by an ACO to the designated impound facility or other authorized veterinarian clinic.

- If the injured animal, including any large wildlife animal such as a deer or moose, is so badly injured that human compassion requires immediate euthanizing to prevent further suffering when other dispositions are impractical, a sworn member, upon authorization of a supervisor, may use a department firearm to euthanize the animal as authorized in Policy § 300.2.1(f) Use of Force and § 313.2.9 Ammunition and Magazines.
- Members shall follow Policy § 450.5.2 for Deceased Animals.

For injured wildlife, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game should be notified during business hours and advised of what type of animal or bird is injured. Certain birds or animals may be considered as protected or endangered species and Fish and Game may either respond and pick up the bird or animal or request it be transported to their office if practical. If it is not a protected or endangered species, Fish and Game will advise if and how they can assist.

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450.7.1 ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

Generally, it will be the discretion of the sworn member, ACO or shift supervisor as to the proper type of enforcement action taken, such as issuing a citation, warning or writing an incident report.