

DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDER 07-39

OFFICE of the CHIEF OF POLICE
REPLACES: General Order 91-05/92-01
SOP 501.07.00

DATE: January 31, 2007

ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES

I. PURPOSE.

Animals create unique challenges to department personnel by their very nature. Owners become highly emotional in regard to their pets, while the animals themselves are often unpredictable. Therefore the following guideline is designed to provide direction to department personnel in dealing with animal-related complaints or incidents.

II. ANIMAL COMPLAINTS.

St. Louis County Animal Control should be contacted in regard to animal-related complaints or incidents. They are charged to enforce ordinances such as leash laws and vaccination requirements, to investigate nuisance situations, and to investigate animal bites. However, their span of authority shall not preclude Clayton officers from enforcing those city ordinances that deal with animals and fowl.

Officers who encounter an animal related problem where remedial action cannot readily be taken should contact the central county office of St. Louis County Animal Control.

If an animal is injured or in need of rescue or assistance (particularly after hours or on weekends), officers may also contact the Humane Society of Missouri or the Animal Protective Association. However, these organizations may require that certain considerations be met before they will respond.

III. ANIMAL BITES.

All reported dog/animal bites shall be documented by an investigative report that will include the names, addresses, and phone numbers of the victim, the animal owner, and any witnesses. Should a dog bite result in a severe injury (broken bones, lacerations requiring stitches, or hospitalization), the animal will be designated a “dangerous animal” in compliance with current city ordinances.

The reporting officer will notify St. Louis County Animal Control of a dog bite within six (6) hours of the incident. St. Louis County will be responsible for conducting a follow-up investigation of the animal bite.

Records personnel will ensure that a copy of the Clayton incident report is forwarded to the central county animal control office.

IV. ANIMALS AT SPECIAL EVENTS.

In accordance with the code of ordinances, animals will be generally prohibited at those special events where over two hundred people are expected to attend. The event site must be clearly posted announcing the ban. If convicted of a violation, animal owners may be found guilty of a misdemeanor.

Exceptions to the ban are support dogs such as seeing-eye dogs, assist dogs for the hearing impaired, police dogs, and other specially trained assist or performing animals.

BY ORDER OF:

THOMAS J. BYRNE
Chief of Police

TJB:dld

CALEA Reference: None