



NEW ORLEANS POLICE DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS MANUAL

CHAPTER: 41.34

TITLE: ANIMAL CONTROL

EFFECTIVE: 12/10/2017

REVISED: Replaces Policy 820

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Chapter is to establish guidelines for New Orleans Police Department personnel in dealing with calls related to animal control and to set forth procedures regarding animal control services, the handling of injured animals, and the abatement of animal nuisances.

POLICY STATEMENT

1. The Louisiana Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) is responsible for impoundment of animals in violation of city ordinances.
2. Requests for assistance by the SPCA shall be acknowledged and responded to promptly by officers.

OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

3. Animal-related calls for service will be handled by the appropriate District patrol officer until responded to by the SPCA.
4. Officers may be dispatched to animal-related calls and should take appropriate actions to control the situation until the arrival of the SPCA.
5. Due to the hazards of handling animals without proper equipment, responding officers should not attempt to capture and/or pick up any animal without the SPCA when possible.
6. An officer may consider acting before the arrival of the SPCA when:
 - (a) There is a threat to public safety.
 - (b) An animal has bitten someone (Officers should take measures to confine the animal and prevent further injury).
 - (c) An animal is creating a traffic hazard.
 - (d) The owner/handler has been arrested, and there is no other alternative placement for the animal.
 - (e) An animal is gravely injured.

ANIMAL CRUELTY COMPLAINTS

7. Officers shall conduct a preliminary investigation on all reports of animal cruelty and immediately forward the information on legitimate animal cruelty complaints to the SPCA for investigation.
8. Officers shall take any immediate and reasonable actions necessary to prevent the perpetration of any act of cruelty to animals in his/her presence.

STRAY ANIMALS

9. The decision to impound an animal shall be made by the representative of the SPCA on the scene. If a violation of a city ordinance has occurred, the investigating officer shall be responsible for conferring with the SPCA representative to ensure a summons is issued.
10. If an animal has a license/tag or can otherwise be identified, the SPCA is responsible for making reasonable attempt(s) to contact the owner and releasing the animal to the owner's custody.

ANIMAL BITES TO HUMANS

11. In handling complaints where humans have been bitten by an animal, officers shall obtain as much information from the victim/witnesses, including name and address, and complete an incident report for forwarding to the SPCA for follow-up.
12. Where the owner of an animal injuring an individual is known, the name, address and date of birth of the owner shall be contained in the incident report. The name of the owner of the animal shall be given to the victim by the investigating officer.
13. Officers shall instruct an owner of a biting animal, if contacted, to keep the animal confined on the property until contacted by the SPCA.
14. If the biting animal is a stray, officers shall contact Communication Services, who shall notify the SPCA. Officers shall remain on the scene until the SPCA arrives.
15. Unless equipped with appropriate expertise and safety equipment, members responding to incidents involving vicious or rabid animals should remain at a safe distance and request the assistance of the SPCA.

PUBLIC NUISANCE CALLS RELATING TO ANIMALS

16. The public nuisance complaint call relating to an animal shall be handled by the APR Unit or referred to "311" by APR if appropriate.
17. District patrol officers on the scene of a public nuisance call relating to an animal shall obtain and forward to the SPCA as much information as possible regarding the nature of the complaint, the complaining person, owner information (if possible) and location of the problem.
18. Officers shall document any actions on an FIC card if no incident report is required.
19. All item numbers for incident reports involving public nuisance calls relating to animals shall be forwarded by email to the SPCA by the reviewing / approving supervisor.

ANIMAL REMAINS ON PUBLIC PROPERTY

20. Officers on the scene of incidents of dead animals on public property shall request removal of the animal remains by the Department of Sanitation through Communication Services.
21. Calls to Communications Services involving incidents of dead animals on public property shall refer the caller or the request for removal of the animal remains by the Department of Sanitation to the Call 311 center or to the Department of Sanitation directly.

INJURED ANIMALS

22. When any injured domesticated animal is brought to the attention of a member of the department, all reasonable attempts shall be made to contact the owner or responsible handler. When the owner or responsible handler cannot be located and the animal is not an immediate danger to the community, the SPCA shall be notified. If a veterinary hospital is near, the officer(s) may relocate the animal to the veterinary hospital with the hospital's/veterinarian's permission.
 - (a) Injured or deceased wildlife (not pets or domesticated animals) should be referred to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF).
 - (b) When handling deceased or injured animals, department employees shall attempt to identify and notify the owner of the disposition of the animal.
 - (c) Each incident shall be documented, at minimum, to include the name of the reporting party and veterinary hospital and/or person to whom the animal is released. If the SPCA is unavailable, the information will be forwarded for follow-up.

CITATIONS

23. If a violation of a city ordinance has occurred involving an animal, the investigating officer shall confer with the SPCA representative to ensure that a summons is issued or appropriate action is taken. Officers issuing citations for cruelty or dangerous/vicious animals shall contact the SPCA.

POST-ARREST PROCEDURES

24. The arresting officer should make a reasonable effort to ensure that animals or pets under a person's care will be provided with adequate care when that person is arrested. This is only required when there is no person to provide care and the arrestee may be in custody for a time period longer than would reasonably allow him/her to properly care for the animals. In all other circumstances, the SPCA shall be contacted to pick up the animal and the owner advised.
25. Relatives or neighbors may be contacted, with the owner's consent, to care for the animals. If no persons can be found or the owner does not consent, the appropriate animal control authority should be notified.

SEARCH WARRANTS

26. When officers of the department are serving a search warrant at a location where animals are known to be present, the officers should contact the SPCA and request assistance with the service of the search warrant.