

**CITY OF FERGUSON  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE**

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Animal Bites

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**ANIMAL BITE REPORTS**

448.00 PURPOSE

The purpose of this General Order is to establish procedures for reporting animal bites.

448.01 PROCEDURE

- A. When an animal bites a person, and the injury is minor, the officer should recommend that they proceed to a medical facility for examination and treatment. If the nature of the injury is serious enough, the officer should request that an ambulance be dispatched for conveyance of the victim to a hospital for treatment.
- B. If the owner of the animal is known and can be contacted at the time of the incident, the officer will advise that the animal must be quarantined for a period of ten days.
  - 1. The animal may be quarantined in an area outside the residence if it is contained in a cage which must contain four sides and a rooftop.
  - 2. If the animal owner does not possess such a cage, the animal must be quarantined inside the residence or other secure building.
- C. The officer will advise the owner that a representative from the St. Louis County Rabies Control Unit will contact him within the ten-day period to check on the animal and to verify proof of the required shots.
- D. The officer is to contact the St. Louis County Rabies Control Center at 831-6500 (North County Office, 4100 Seven Hills Dr.) or 726-6655 (801 S. Brentwood) and advise them of the incident. If the incident occurs after hours, the officer should leave a message on their answering machine.
- E. If an animal bite incident occurs after hours and requires immediate pickup by Rabies Control, the St. Louis County Police Communications Center should be contacted and they will dispatch a Rabies Control Unit.
- F. An "ANIMAL BITE" report will be completed by the officer. The name of the rabies control representative contacted should be placed in the narrative, if applicable.
- G. If there is a violation of our city animal control ordinance, the officer should issue the owner a summons for the violation. A copy of the report will be forwarded to the city prosecuting attorney.

April 21, 2010

- H. When the animal owner is unknown or cannot be located, the officer should attempt to confine or restrain the animal if possible and immediately contact Rabies Control and ask them to respond for the animal.
- I. If for some reason the possibility exists that an animal involved in a bite incident must be killed, this decision is to be made only by the Watch Commander, and only after all the facts and circumstances of the incident have been carefully weighed.

By order of:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Colonel Thomas Jackson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

COLONEL THOMAS JACKSON  
Chief of Police

Distribution

All Department Personnel