

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

Index as:

Animal Control
Animal Handling
Confined Animals
Rabies Control

ANIMAL CONTROL AND ANIMAL HANDLING

620.00 PURPOSE

The purpose of this general order is to establish set guidelines to be used by personnel assigned to the CommunicationsCenter of the City of Ferguson Police Department.

These guidelines will also apply to all Ferguson Police Officers, as well to the other Police Agencies that are provided communication services by the CommunicationsCenter

620.01 POLICY

The St. Louis County Police Department works with St. Louis County Department of Health, Animal Control Section, (formerly known as Rabies Control) exclusively for the pickup of stray and confined animals and the handling of all animal bite cases.

A. ST. LOUIS COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL

St. Louis County Animal Control responds to a variety of calls as follows:

1. Stray Animals Running Loose:
Animal control responds to calls of dogs and cats that are running loose and creating a nuisance, whether or not the owner of the animal is known. Animal Control is not equipped to pickup stray horses or livestock that are running loose, these calls should be referred to the Humane Society of Missouri. Animal Control responds to reports of wild animals acting aggressively - otherwise wild animal calls should be referred to Wildlife Rescue.
2. Animals Confined:
Animal Control responds to calls of animals that were running loose and have since been confined by a citizen. An animal is confined if it is tied, caged, or similarly restricted.

3. Injured Animals/Dead Animals:

Injured animal calls should be first referred to the Humane Society. St. Louis County Animal Control will respond to these calls in emergency situations where an injured animal is attacking people or impeding traffic if the Humane Society cannot be reached, or if their ETA is in excess of 30 minutes. Street or highway departments may be contacted to remove dead animals. Dead animals on private property can be removed by a private service for a fee.

- a) Humane Society of Missouri
314-647-8800 (8 AM - 7:30 PM, Monday through Friday)
- b) Wildlife Center of Missouri
636-394-1880 (24 hours per day)
- c) Animal Carcass Removal
636-931-4400

4. Animal Bites Involving People:

Persons having been bitten should be advised to consult a physician. An ambulance should be offered if, in the caller's opinion, the bite is serious. Animal Control will respond to these calls to determine vaccination status of the biting animal and to initiate the required ten-day observation procedure. The biting animal should be confined if possible and registration number of owner's name and phone number obtained. If the biting animal is a wild or un-owned animal, advise the caller that, "efforts to safely trap or restrain animal in a garage, cage or on a rope are very important to determine if animal has rabies; however, if you decide to do this yourself, you should be careful not to get bitten by this animal." Dispatch Animal Control to quarantine the biting animal.

5. Animals Creating Nuisance:

- a) Complaints of barking dogs will be referred to a police officer.
- b) Nuisance calls (cats, dogs and other animals) such as cats and dogs defecating in neighbors' yard, fighting, or destruction of property will be referred to a police officer for investigation.
- c) Animal Control will respond to "check the welfare of an animal" call.

6. Animals Loose Within a Residence:

Animal Control responds to calls involving any animals inside a residence that are causing problems (i.e., bird or other wildlife trapped in a home). They will only remove it from inside the dwelling, and do not treat or transport wild animals that are injured. These calls may be considered emergency calls depending on the situation.

7. Bats Within a Residence

Animal Control responds to **ALL** calls involving bats. The dispatcher will obtain

the name and a callback phone number from caller and forward the call immediately to Animal Control. Bat calls are considered a top priority. The caller should be advised that bats should never be touched, picked up or released and that Animal Control will pick up the bats and send them for testing.

8. Animal on Animal Attack

Animal Control will respond to calls involving animal attacks to another animal unless these calls involve wildlife. An Animal Control officer will respond to the scene to speak with all parties involved, obtain any statements needed and determine if they will issue citations or impound the dog for a dangerous dog investigation.

B. ANIMAL CONTROL SHELTER OPERATIONS

Animal Control maintains two shelters for the handling and holding of animals and hastrucks available to respond on calls from these locations. Persons may claim lost pets during their hours of operation.

SHELTER LOCATIONS

1. Shelter

77 Hunter Lane, Ladue

314-726-6655

(Intersects Ladue Road at railroad crossing, just east of I-170)

2. Shelter

10521 Baur Rd.

St. Louis, Mo. 63132

314 615-0666

C. POLICE OFFICERS

Police Officers will be dispatched by Communications personnel in the following situations:

1. Horses, Cows, Pigs, etc., Running Loose:

A police officer will be dispatched due to the hazard presented to traffic and public welfare. The Humane Society is equipped with a horse trailer and will respond upon request, after the responding officer evaluates the situation.

2. Vicious Animals:

On occasion, calls are received by Communications personnel concerning an animal that has attacked or is attacking people. A Police Officer will be dispatched due to the threat to public welfare, and an animal control unit will be dispatched to assist.

D. LOST PET INFORMATION

Communications personnel occasionally receive calls requesting information on lost pets. The caller should be provided the telephone number of the shelters previously identified in this procedure.

1. Callers trying to locate pets should call the shelter during normal business hours. These hours are also the only times an animal can be released from the shelters.
2. The caller should be prepared to provide as complete a description of the pet as possible to include identification tag numbers or license numbers, if any. It is important to personally visit the shelter for identification of pets, which can be done during normal operating hours.


E. WILDLIFE CENTER OF MISSOURI

Wildlife Center of Missouri responds to calls of injured or orphaned wildlife, wildlife in distress, or wildlife that is trapped in people's houses. Advise that skunks are an extreme rabies risk. There is a fee for removing non-injured animals from homes and private property. (Call for information of fees.) Animal Control should be notified in cases of wildlife acting aggressively or to respond to other questions.

1. Location: 1128 New Ballwin, Ballwin, Missouri
636-394-1880
2. Hours of operation: weekdays 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM then 6:30 – 8:00 PM
Saturday, Sunday 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM then 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM

See G.O. 448.00 Animal Bite Report and G.O. 480.00 Barking Dog Incidents for policies and additional specifics.

By order of:



COLONEL THOMAS JACKSON
Chief of Police

Distribution

All Department Personnel