

Animal Control

Effective Date:	12/27/2019
Revised Date:	
Issuing Authority: Chief Jay Miller	

803.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for interacting with animals and responding to calls for service that involve animals.

803.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Alsip Police Department to be responsive to the needs of the community regarding animal-related issues. This includes enforcing local, state and federal laws relating to animals and appropriately resolving or referring animal-related problems, as outlined in this policy.

803.3 OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

Animal control services are generally the primary responsibility of Officer and include the following:

- (a) Animal-related matters during periods when Officer is available.
- (b) Ongoing or persistent animal nuisance complaints. Such complaints may be scheduled, if reasonable, for handling during periods that Officer is available for investigation and resolution.
- (c) Follow-up on animal-related calls, such as locating owners of injured animals.

803.4 MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

Members who respond to or assist with animal-related calls for service should evaluate the situation to determine appropriate actions to control the situation.

Members may consider acting when:

- (a) There is a threat to the public safety.
- (b) An animal has bitten someone. Members should take measures to confine the animal and prevent further injury.
- (c) An animal is creating a traffic hazard.
- (d) An animal is seriously injured.
- (e) The owner/handler of an animal has been arrested or is incapacitated. In such circumstances, the member should find appropriate placement for the animal.

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1. This is only necessary when the arrestee is expected to be in custody for a time period longer than would reasonably allow him/her to properly care for the animal.
2. With the owner's consent, locating appropriate placement may require contacting relatives or neighbors to care for the animal.
3. If no person can be found or the owner does not or cannot give consent, the animal should be taken to a designated animal care facility.

803.5 ANIMAL CRUELTY COMPLAINTS

Laws relating to the cruelty to animals should be enforced including but not limited to cruel treatment of animals, aggravated cruelty to animals, animal torture, animal fighting, and animals confined in vehicles (510 ILCS 70/3.01; 510 ILCS 70/3.02; 510 ILCS 70/3.03; 510 ILCS 70/4.01; 720 ILCS 5/48-1; 510 ILCS 70/7.1):

- (a) An investigation should be conducted on all reports of animal cruelty.
- (b) Legal steps should be taken to protect an animal that is in need of immediate care or protection from acts of cruelty.
- (c) Members may enter during normal business hours on a premise where the animal is housed or kept for the purpose of conducting an investigation except such entry shall not be made into a person's residence without a search warrant or court order (510 ILCS 70/10).
- (d) Members who lawfully seize an animal shall comply with impound and notice requirements (510 ILCS 70/3.04; 510 ILCS 70/4.02).

803.6 ANIMAL BITE REPORTS

Members investigating an animal bite should obtain as much information as possible for follow-up with the appropriate health or animal authorities. Efforts should be made to capture or otherwise have the animal placed under control. Members should attempt to identify and notify the owner of the final disposition of the animal.

803.7 STRAY DOGS

If the dog has a license or can otherwise be identified, the owner should be contacted, if possible. If the owner is contacted, the dog should be released to the owner and a citation may be issued, if appropriate. If a dog is taken into custody, it shall be transported to the appropriate shelter/holding pen.

Members shall provide reasonable treatment to animals in their care (e.g., food, water, shelter). See Procedure 803 for further.

803.8 PUBLIC NUISANCE CALLS RELATING TO ANIMALS

Members should diligently address calls related to nuisance animals (e.g., barking dogs), because such calls may involve significant quality-of-life issues.

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803.9 DECEASED ANIMALS

When a member becomes aware of a deceased animal, all reasonable attempts should be made to preliminarily determine if the death of the animal is related to criminal activity.

Deceased animals on public property should be removed by notifying Public Works.

Members should not climb onto or under any privately owned structure for the purpose of removing a deceased animal.

803.10 INJURED ANIMALS

When a member becomes aware of an injured domesticated animal, all reasonable attempts should be made to contact the owner or responsible handler. If an owner or responsible handler cannot be located, the animal should be taken to a designated animal care facility.

803.10.1 INJURED WILDLIFE

- (a) Injured wildlife should be referred to one of several locations as applicable and depending upon available resources and type of animal:
 - 1. A local Rehabilitator, preserve or wildlife care center
 - 2. A shelter by the Anti-Cruelty Society, Illinois Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA), or the Illinois Department of Natural Resources
- (b) Injured wildlife may be briefly held and transported to wildlife Rehabilitators licensed by the State of Illinois. In addition, migratory birds may be taken only to Rehabilitators who are in possession of appropriate Federal permits issued by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).
- (c) The driver involved in a deer accident may take possession of the dead animal. If the driver does not want the deer, any Illinois resident may claim it (17 Ill. Adm. Code 750.10).

803.10 DESTRUCTION OF ANIMALS

When it is necessary to use a firearm to euthanize a badly injured animal or stop an animal that poses an imminent threat to human safety, the Firearms Policy shall be followed. A badly injured animal shall only be euthanized with the approval of a supervisor.