



MYRTLE BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS AND OPERATING PROCEDURES

Subject: *Animal Control Calls For Service*

Number: 264

Effective Date: *May 13, 2011*

Revised Date:

Rescinds:

Dated:

Approved By:

PURPOSE

To establish general guidelines for Officer's responding to Animal Control Calls.

DEFINITIONS

1. Bites - Wounds, punctures, lacerations and/or breaking of the skin caused by the mouth (particularly the teeth) of an animal.
2. Attacks - Any forcible or violent attempted or committed action against a person(s) or animal(s).
3. Nuisance Animal - Any animal whose conduct as permitted by the owner or keeper which disturbs the rights of, threatens the safety of or damages a member of the general public, or interferes with the ordinary use and enjoyment of their property, with such intensity or duration so as to constitute a continuing injury, annoyance, inconvenience or discomfort to the public health, safety and welfare. Frequency of conduct may be a factor in determining nuisance; however, one incident may be sufficient to declare an animal to be a nuisance animal.
4. Vicious/Dangerous Animal - An animal with a history, propensity or inclination to attack unprovoked, to cause injury to, or otherwise endanger the health, safety or welfare of persons or domestic pets. NOTE: An animal shall not be deemed dangerous if it bites, attacks or menaces:
 - a. Anyone assaulting the owner.
 - b. A trespasser is on the property of the owner.
 - c. Any person or other animal which has tormented or abused it.
 - d. Is protecting or defending its young or other animal.

PROCEDURE

1. GENERAL ANIMAL COMPLAINTS

When Officers are called upon to pick up animals they will transport them to the animal shelter and follow the intake procedures posted at the shelter.

2. ANIMAL BITE/ATTACKS

A. Animal attacks or bites a person:

- 1) Officers will complete an incident report.
- 2) When there is a violation of law in addition to the bite/attack (animals at large, animal nuisance, or vicious/dangerous) a summons will be issued.
- 3) Officers will take pictures, acquire victim/witness statements and acquire animal vaccination/license information from the owner.
- 4) Animal Control Officer may be consulted with supervisor's approval.
- 5) The On-Call Animal Control Officer will respond in the event the animal is determined to be Vicious/Dangerous.
- 6) Vicious/dangerous animals must be impounded.
- 7) If an animal that bites a person is determined not to be Vicious/Dangerous; Upon presentation of vaccination paperwork the owner may retain and isolate the animal from the public until the animal is quarantined by DHEC.
- 8) Reports are to be forwarded to Animal Control.
- 9) VICTIM ADVOCATE PAPERWORK IS NOT COMPLETED FOR ANIMAL BITES/ATTACKS.

B. Animal attacks or bites another animal:

- 1) Officers will complete incident report.
- 2) When there is a violation of law in addition to the bite/attack a summons will be issued.
- 3) Officers will take pictures, acquire victim/witness statements and acquire animal vaccination/license information from the owner.
- 4) The On-Call Animal Control Officer will respond in the event the animal is determined to be Vicious/Dangerous.
- 5) If an animal that bites an animal is determined not to be Vicious/Dangerous; Upon presentation of vaccination paperwork the owner may retain and isolate the animal from the public until the animal is quarantined by DHEC.
- 6) Reports are to be forwarded to Animal Control.

3. ANIMAL CRUELTY OR NEGLECT

Officers will comply with all state and local laws/ordinance when responding to complaints of Animal Cruelty/Neglect. Supervisors may contact the On-Call Animal Control Officer to assist with Cruelty/Neglect determinations.

4. WILDLIFE

Officers respond to wildlife calls only when wild animals are sick, injured, rabid or present an imminent danger to the public. All other complaints will be referred to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

5. INJURED ANIMALS

- A. In accordance with MBPD Procedure 206F, Use of Force, Officers are authorized to humanely shoot injured wildlife to include deer.
- B. Officers will transport injured domestic companion animals to the nearest open animal hospital. Officers will attempt to identify and notify the owners of the domestic animal.
- C. If the Animal Hospital rejects the injured animal, the on-call Animal control officer will be notified and respond.