



# SACRAMENTO POLICE DEPARTMENT

## GENERAL ORDERS



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### 538.01 BARKING DOGS/ANIMAL NUISANCE/INJURED ANIMALS/RABID ANIMALS 12-02-97

#### **PURPOSE**

To establish procedures for the processing and control of complaints of animal nuisance, injured and diseased animals.

#### **POLICY**

To direct all animal complaint calls to the Animal Control Center.

#### **PROCEDURE**

##### A. GENERAL

Officers receiving requests to shoot injured animals or those suspected of being diseased are prohibited from doing so. The following procedures have been established:

1. Communications personnel shall ascertain all known facts which lead the complainant to believe the existence of imminent danger to a person or animal.
2. A unit shall be dispatched to investigate any case if there appears to be imminent danger. Imminent danger includes, but is not limited to:
  - a. excessive barking from a normally quiet dog.
  - b. possible injured owner.
  - c. possible crime in progress.

##### B. ANIMAL COMPLAINTS

1. The Communications Division shall instruct the complainant to contact the Animal Control Center during their normal business hours (Monday through Saturday, 1100 to 1700 hours).
2. All emergency assistance calls during the Animal Control Center's non-business hours shall be referred to the City Operator.

##### C. ANIMAL BITE AND RABIES INVESTIGATION

1. An Animal Control Officer shall be called on all animal bites. The Animal Control Officer will determine the disposition of all animals (i.e., whether an animal is to be released to the owner or taken for isolation/observation).
2. Should the owner refuse to surrender the animal upon demand of the Animal Control Officer, proper enforcement action under Section 6.06.66 of the Sacramento City Code (SCC) will be taken. The Department, upon request, shall assist Animal Control Officers as necessary and provide transportation of prisoners to jail.

**NOTE:** In the performance of his or her duty, the Chief Animal Control Officer and his or her deputies have been designated as public officers pursuant to Chapter 30.03.015 of the SCC and California Penal Code (PC) Section 830.59. They are vested with the powers and immunities specified in 836.5 and 830.9 PC for the specific purpose of enforcing Title 6 of the SCC, and other related statutes. Animal Control Officers have full authority to issue misdemeanor citations or effect arrests for violations of provisions in Chapter 6 of the SCC and other related statutes. Animal Control Officers will complete the necessary reports (i.e., Crime Report, Arrest Report, and Clear-up).

3. Animal Control Officers will turn the completed reports into the Public Information Counter at police headquarters, where they shall be placed in the "approval needed" box.
4. If police officers are summoned to the scene and other crimes (415, 242, or other PC violation) have been committed, the officers shall complete all necessary reports.

##### D. DESTROYING INJURED ANIMALS

1. If owners, or other responsible persons, of seriously injured animals are able to care for them, they shall be advised they are responsible for treatment or disposal of the animals.
2. If the owner, or another responsible person, of a seriously injured animal cannot be located or cannot take necessary action to care for the animal, the Animal Control Officer will respond and transport to a veterinary clinic for emergency treatment.

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3. When an owner or police officer requests that the injured animal be destroyed, the officer shall notify the Animal Control Center and request an Animal Control Officer respond to the scene.

**E. NIGHT DEPOSITORY**

1. Employees may refer the public to the night depository at the Animal Control Center to perform animal related services.

**NOTE:** The night depository is located in the front, northwest end of the Animal Control Center. The cages are for use when the Animal Control Center has closed for the day. The cages are equipped with self-locking doors which are left in an unlocked position.

2. Whenever the care of an animal is in question because its owner is arrested, hospitalized, or otherwise unable to care for it, one of the following procedures shall be followed:
  - a. When possible, have the owner leave the animal on the premises with sufficient food and water or arrange for someone else to care for it.
  - b. If the owner, or someone else at the owner's request, cannot provide for the care of the animal, an Animal Control Officer may be called to the scene and take custody of the animal. If the call for the Animal Control Officer is other than during regular working hours, contact the City Operator to reach the on-call officer.
  - c. Officers may take animals directly to the Animal Control Center and have them taken into custody. If Animal Control Center personnel are on duty, the officer shall advise them that the animal's owner is being arrested, is hospitalized, or otherwise unable to care for it.
3. If officers elect to place an animal in a night deposit cage during nonbusiness hours, the following procedure shall be strictly followed:

**NOTE:** It is mandatory that officers follow procedures outlined below to prevent the accidental destruction of the animal.

- a. Place animal in any empty night deposit cage.
- b. Complete the night deposit information card contained in the card holder attached in front of each cage.
  - (1) Complete all pertinent sections and print name, badge number, and watch or assignment at bottom of card.
  - (2) Enter the number of the cage in which the animal was placed in the lower right-hand corner of the information card.
- c. The completed card shall be returned to the cardholder of the cage where the animal was placed.
- d. Officers shall notify the City Operator directly, providing full details regarding the custody and ownership of the animal. The City Operator will then be able to contact Animal Control Center personnel when they next report to duty and provide details of the animal's custody.