

City of Hampton
Animal Control
Administrative Guidelines

Title: <p style="text-align:center">Animal Bite Investigations</p>	Guideline Number: <p style="text-align:center">OP-107</p>
References:	Date Issued: <p style="text-align:center">May 2006</p>

I. Purpose

To outline the procedural, administrative, and investigative steps necessary to properly conduct an animal bite case.

II. Policy

The role of Hampton Animal Control in the handling of animal bite cases is to ensure public safety and health by investigating the circumstances of such reported incidents and to assess the potential for rabies transmission by means of quarantine and/or scientific testing of animals involved under the guidance of the health department. Animal bite complaints in progress are prioritized as an emergency call.

III. Procedure

A. Domestic Animal Bites

1. In all cases where a human is bitten by a domestic animal and the skin has been broken, the following steps will be taken unless the victim is the animal owner and does not want a report taken. In those cases, an exposure report must be done at a minimum.
 - a. The officer will initiate quarantine of the biting animal at the owner's residence if it can be done safely, otherwise the officer will transport to the SPCA or a veterinary hospital.
 - b. An IBR will be completed.
 - c. Witness and/or victim statements will be taken.
 - d. Photographs of bite, the biting animal and victim.
 - e. Obtain verification of rabies vaccination and city license information.
 - f. Exposure report if owner/victim does not wish to make a report. Report must be sent immediately to health department.
 - g. If the domestic animal is a canine, and the criteria is met for dangerous / vicious dog, the officer will proceed under those guidelines. See OP-???

1. Cases in which the skin of the victim is not broken, or the possibility of exposure to infectious material is impossible, the incident will not ordinarily be investigated as an animal bite and will not result in the quarantine or testing of the animal(s) involved.

2. In those cases where a bite is between two domestic animals, (one being a canine, and the owners are not the same, the officers should determine if it meets the criteria for a dangerous / vicious dog and proceed with those guidelines. The officer must obtain verification of rabies vaccination and city license information for both domestic animals.

B. Wild Animal Bites

1. Every effort consistent with officer and public safety will be expended to retrieve for testing any wild animal which has bitten a human or has had other contact which could reasonably be interpreted as a potential rabies exposure. The officer will complete an exposure report and send to the health department all reports of bites to humans or potential exposures to rabies.
2. **Bats** which are found either alive or dead in the occupied living space of a residence under circumstances in which the length of time the animal has been inside the structure is unknown, will be captured and/or confined and taken to Todd's Lane Veterinary Hospital, or if after-hours to Animal Emergency Center, for preparation of testing by the health department. Officers will ascertain the presence of all persons and domestic animals whom may have had contact with the bat. The health department must be notified immediately via an exposure report. If the bat cannot be located, the officer will contact the health department for further instructions.
3. In cases of contact between a companion animal and an unknown wild animal or rabies vector animal, the following guidelines should be followed:
 - a. If the rabies vector animal is on scene or otherwise available to safely capture by the officer, it should be confined and taken to Veterinary Hospital or at nights or weekends to Animal Emergency Center for humane euthanasia and then transported to the Todd's Lane Veterinary Clinic for preparation of testing by the health department.
 - b. An Exposure Report must be completed and sent immediately to the health department indicating the location of the deceased animal for possible testing or unknown if the animal is not located.
 - c. In those cases where the biting animal's location is unknown, an exposure report is taken and sent to the health department. If the companion animal has a current rabies vaccination, the officer may recommend to take the animal to his/her regular veterinarian and get a booster vaccination. The companion animal shall be quarantined for 45 days. Companion animals with expired or no rabies vaccination will be instructed by the health department as to quarantine procedures and confinement times.

Authorized by: 	Revision Date: September 15, 2011
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