

City of Hampton
Animal Control
Administrative Guidelines

Title: <p style="text-align:center">Dangerous Vicious Animal Response</p>	Guideline Number: <p style="text-align:center">OP-106</p>
References:	Date Issued: <p style="text-align:center">May 2006</p>

I. Purpose

To outline a process for handling complaints about vicious/ dangerous animals. Officer also need to be familiar with Policy # OP-108 Animal Bite Investigations.

II. Policy

The community's health and safety is always the top priority for the animal control officer when dealing with vicious and/or dangerous animals as well as the risk to his/her own personal safety. Nearly all wildlife should be considered vicious or dangerous.

For domestic animals, not every attempted bite or attack without provocation, or a menacing encounter declares the animal as vicious or dangerous. Often, a domestic animal instinctively reacts in this manner due to fear, pain or avoiding entrapment. An evaluation is usually needed before a domestic animal should be considered vicious / dangerous. Vicious / Dangerous Animal complaints are prioritized as Emergency Calls.

III. Procedure

A. Wildlife Complaints

1. In every case of a wild animal attacking a human, livestock or companion animal, an armed police officer will be dispatched to respond with the animal control officer. If an officer has not been dispatched, the animal control officer may request one.
2. A wild animal that is killed due to an attack on a human, livestock or a companion animal will be transported to Todd's Lane Veterinary Hospital for possible testing of rabies by the Health Department. After hours, the animal needing to be tested may be stored only in the refrigerator of the animal control office.
3. A wild animal that is captured after an attack on a human, livestock or a companion animal, will be transported to Todd's Lane Veterinary Hospital and humanely euthanized. Testing for rabies is determined by the Health Department. After hours, the animal will be transferred to a veterinarian for euthanasia and then stored only in the refrigerator of the animal control office.
4. In every case of injury to a human or livestock, an IBR will be completed, witness statements obtained and photographs taken. An exposure report will be completed and sent to the health department on all injuries to a human such as bites and/or scratches.

5. A wild animal confined inside a business or living space of a residential home will be removed and released outside or transported to a local veterinary hospital for euthanasia.
6. Other wild animal complaints, not posing a risk to public safety, will be referred to outside agencies and/or provided educational information. See Policy #OP-102 Wildlife.

B. Domestic Animal Complaints

1. In every case of a domestic animal attacking a human, livestock or companion animal, an armed police officer will be dispatched to respond with the animal control officer. If an officer has not been dispatched, the animal control officer may contact communications and request one for assistance.
2. A domestic animal that is killed due to an attack on a human, livestock or a companion animal, will be transported to Todd's Lane Veterinary Hospital for possible testing of rabies by the health department.
3. If the attacking domestic animal is a feline and it is "at large", the feline will be transported to the Peninsula SPCA for 10 day quarantine. The intake card should be marked Contact Impounding Agency PRIOR to Release. If the attacking feline's owner is located, it should be quarantined at home unless the owner is not able to confine it inside at which time it can be quarantined at the SPCA, but the owner will be responsible for any fees, including impounding costs.
4. If the attacking domestic animal is a canine, the officer will need to determine if the attack meets the criteria established in state law and/or city ordinance to be deemed dangerous / vicious.
5. An IBR will be completed on attacks involving injuries to humans and livestock as well as canines which attack companion animals with serious injuries as deemed by a licensed veterinarian. Other attacks should be documented on a report if requested by the victim and/or owner. Dogs that are transported to the Peninsula SPCA should have the intake card marked Contact Impounding Agency PRIOR to Release.
6. Photographs of the animal(s) involved will be taken with the report along with any witness statements including veterinarian reports if necessary. An exposure report will be completed on any attack involving injuries to humans and sent to the health department.
7. If the attacking domestic animal is a canine and the canine is "at large", the officer will transport it to the Peninsula SPCA for the 10 day quarantine and possible impoundment for dangerous / vicious hearing. If the attacking canine cannot be safely quarantined at home, the officer will take possession and transport it to the SPCA for quarantine and possible impoundment for dangerous / vicious hearing. In all cases of severe attacks, the officer will impound the canine at the SPCA pending a hearing.
8. All dangerous / vicious canine complaints which meet the criteria will require the officer to secure a dangerous dog summons from the magistrate if the victim

wishes to pursue that charge. Dangerous dog summonses can only be issued by a magistrate and only if the canine is currently located within the city. In cases where a summons is obtained, the officer will notify the supervisor immediately and complete the dangerous dog checklist.

9. A compliance form will be completed by the case officer, and a copy of the Dangerous Dog Remittance Form will be provided to the owners of all canines deemed dangerous in court. The immediate supervisor will be notified to assist with providing a Dangerous Dog Tag, and initial Registration with the State Veterinary's Office.

Authorized by: 	Revision Date: September 15, 2011
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