

City of Hampton
Animal Control
Administrative Guidelines

Title: <p style="text-align:center">Wildlife Response</p>	Guideline Number: <p style="text-align:center">OP-101</p>
References: Department of Game and Inland Fisheries	Date Issued: September 15, 2011

I. Purpose

To establish guidelines for investigating complaints regarding wildlife within the City of Hampton.

II. Policy

Animal Control Officers and/or Technicians shall respond and evaluate complaints of wild animals that may be vicious, sick, injured, or inside dwellings. In every case, Animal Control will educate citizens on the proper ways to discourage nuisance wildlife and educate residents about living with wildlife in the area.

III. Procedures

A. Wildlife in General

1. Animal Control is limited by state and federal mandates regarding the removal and relocation of wildlife. Animal Control is not authorized by the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries to trap and relocate wild animals.
2. All employees when handling sick, injured or vicious wildlife shall use the minimum force necessary to catch, restrain, hold, release and/or load wildlife as necessary.

B. Nuisance Wildlife

Animal Control will respond to complaints of nuisance wildlife. Nuisance wildlife is defined as wildlife that is a possible health concern or may be severely damaging property resulting in infrastructure damage.

1. After initial assessment, Animal Control may consult with other local government agencies for assistance to determine if the animal is a true nuisance.
2. If the wildlife is considered a true nuisance, the City may allocate monies to contract a wildlife specialist under special circumstances.

C. Wildlife inside dwellings

1. After initial assessment, Animal Control may consult with other local government agencies for assistance to determine if the animal is a true nuisance.

2. If captured, the animal may be released outdoors on the premises, unless the officer and/or technician determine the animal is sick, injured or vicious.
3. Animal Control staff cannot move any furniture or other objects due to the possibility of damage. It may be necessary for the occupant to contact a private exterminator or wildlife trapper.

D. Wildlife Outdoors

1. Hampton Animal Control may use live animal traps for the purpose of trapping injured, sick or possible rabid wildlife for the purpose of transporting to a veterinary hospital for humane euthanasia and/or testing.
2. Animal Control will attempt to capture sick, injured, vicious wildlife and transport to a licensed wildlife rehabilitator or a veterinarian. It may be necessary for the occupant to contact a private exterminator or wildlife trapper for additional assistance.
3. Animal Control will not respond to baby wildlife. It is recommended that baby animals be left alone to be tended by their adult counterpart. The occupant may need to contact Wildlife Response at (757) 543-7000, for additional assistance.
4. Marine Animals – It is recommended that citizens contact the Virginia Institute for Marine Science for deceased, injured or sick marine animals such as turtles, whales, dolphins, etc. at (804) 684-7313.