

City of Hampton
Animal Control
Administrative Guidelines

Title: Enforcement of the Law	Guideline Number: A-102
References: HPD Policy & Procedure #103	Date Issued: September 15, 2011

I. PURPOSE:

To set forth the Hampton Animal Control's philosophy as it relates to enforcing the law.

II. POLICY:

All members of Hampton Animal Control reflect this philosophy in the performance of law enforcement duties.

III. PHILOSOPHY:

The primary purpose for the existence of law enforcement is to provide necessary regulation of individual members of society. The enforcement of law must be directed towards those whom, by engaging in criminal activity or code violations, deprive others of their rights and personal safety.

The enforcement of every law in every instance is neither desirable nor economical. For this reason, enforcement when possible should be selective in nature, based upon time and location, relative importance of the violation, violations that are actually preventable by enforcement action and those crimes or violations that may cause additional or more serious crimes to occur.

Discretion in enforcing the laws should be exercised by officers due to the limited resources available to Animal Control to deal with our many responsibilities.

Also, because of the ambiguity of some laws and the many alternatives to ~~arrest or~~ issuing a summons, each officer should use the most effective methods of accomplishing the purpose of what the law was intended to accomplish. For instance, when minor violations occur which involve a regulatory law with no victim, the objective can, at times, be best served by a courteous warning. On the other hand, officers at no time are justified in scolding, lecturing, humiliating, or inconveniencing any offender, regardless of the offense.

Officers must strive to impartially enforce the law with the purpose for which the law was intended. This enforcement must be accomplished without regard to a person's race, creed, sex, religion, political persuasion, social status, or profiling based on any of these attributes.

Authorized by: 	Revision Date:
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