



ERIE POLICE DEPARTMENT



Written Directives

Number: 280.000

Title: Injured and Vicious Animals		Pages: 4
Effective Date: 05/22/14	Review Date: 02/19/16	Amended Date: 08/04/17

POLICY:

While performing Department duties, officers of the Erie Police Department may be required to confront or deal with dangerous or severely injured animals. These types of situations, involving wild or domestic animals, may pose a threat to the health or safety of the officer or the public. This directive outlines officer responsibilities in these situations.

DEFINITIONS:

VICIOUS ANIMAL: Any animal (pet or non-domesticated animal) which inflicts unprovoked bites, scratches or other injuries upon humans or other animals in a vicious or terrorizing manner or approaches any person or animal in an apparent attitude of attack.

WILDLIFE: Any non-domesticated animal to include: skunks, bats, raccoons, deer, elk, porcupine, fox, coyote, eagle, hawk, and snake, etc.

LARGE GAME: Elk, deer, moose, pronghorn antelope, mountain lion, bear, or any other wildlife which require a license (per animal taken) when hunted in the State of Colorado.

PROCEDURES:

I. INJURED ANIMALS

- A. In the Town of Erie, if a domesticated animal, dog, cat or other pet, is severely injured, officers shall attempt to locate the owner.
 - 1. If an owner cannot be located, the officer must either transport the animal to a veterinarian or to the Boulder Humane Society, based on the severity of injuries.
 - 2. This decision should be made after consulting with a veterinarian if possible.
- B. If the owner is located, it shall be the owner's responsibility to have the animal treated or transported to be euthanized. The owner will make this decision.
- C. The owner will be responsible for all veterinarian charges for treatment of the animal.
- D. Injured domesticated animals will not be euthanized by an Erie Police Officer by any means.

- E. Injured wildlife shall not be euthanized if they are capable of getting up and moving away unless they show signs of rabies infection.
- F. Prior to euthanizing/shooting severely injured wildlife, the responding officer must notify a supervisor or the officer in charge.
- G. Boulder County Communications should be notified prior to euthanizing any wildlife and should also be notified after the euthanasia is complete.
- H. Colorado Parks and Wildlife shall be notified of any large game animals which are euthanized due to injury. This notification can be made through Boulder County Communications.

II. VICIOUS ANIMALS

- A. When confronted by a dangerous or vicious animal which threatens bodily injury to the officer or citizen, Erie Police Officers will:
 - 1. Consider the use of all tools at their disposal to try and contain or capture the animal without causing unnecessary injury to the animal, while keeping in mind the public's safety as well as his/her own safety.
 - 2. Be familiar with the catch pole located in the trunk of Erie Police Department patrol cars, which can assist with the capture of the animal.
 - 3. Be aware the use of department issued oleoresin capsicum spray or a Taser is effective on many animals.
- B. When use of a firearm is absolutely necessary to prevent bodily injury to a citizen or officer, the officer should try to avoid shooting the animal in the head.
- C. If a firearm is discharged to stop a vicious animal from causing bodily injury to someone, the officer will notify a supervisor to respond and maintain the integrity of the scene for investigation.
- D. If a domesticated animal (pet) is injured or killed, the responding supervisor will:
 - a. Obtain the name and address of the owner of the pet;
 - b. Obtain the name and address of any witness to the incident;
 - c. Preserve and photograph any evidence and process and collect the evidence;
 - d. Arrange for the transportation of any dead animal pending an examination by the Humane Society or other veterinarian; and
 - e. Notify the Staff Duty Officer (SDO) of the incident.
- E. A Staff Duty Officer will review the reports, witness statements and evidence related to the incident to determine if further investigation or an Internal Affairs investigation is warranted.

III. ANIMALS SUPECTED OF RABIES INFECTION

A. Animals infected with rabies may show some of the following symptoms:

1. Aggressive behavior;
2. Fearfulness;
3. Excessive drooling;
4. Difficulty swallowing;
5. Staggering;
6. Paralysis;
7. Seizures; or
8. Unusual interactions with domestic animals or people.

B. If any animal, alive or deceased, is suspected of having rabies, the officer will do the following:

1. Contact the Boulder County Public Health (303)441-1564 or the Weld County Department of Health and Environment (970)304-6415 to determine if the animal should be collected for testing. If it is outside of regular business hours, the officer may contact the respective county's dispatch center to have the on-call Department of Health official contact them.
2. If directed by the Department of Health to collect the animal, the officer will do the following:
 - a. Avoid shooting the animal in the head if the animal needs to be dispatched. An intact brain is necessary to perform a test for rabies on the suspected animal.
 - b. Once the animal has expired, the officer will place the suspected rabid animal in two plastic bags (double bagged).
 - c. Officers should use gloves while bagging the animal and not handle the animal at any time with their bare hands.
 - d. Once the animal has been secured in two plastic bags, a tag will be placed on the bags noting the case number assigned.

- e. The animal's body should be transported to the Fox Tail Pines Veterinary Hospital located at 89 S Briggs St, suite 101, Erie, Colorado, Monday through Friday, 8 AM – 5 PM and 8 AM – 12 PM on Saturdays.
- f. Outside of the business hours for the veterinarian's office, the officer will store the animal's body in the refrigerator located in the temporary evidence storage area. The body will be taken to Fox Tail Pines at the earliest possible date to decapitate the animal for rabies testing.
- g. Once the animal is processed by the veterinary hospital, the head of the animal will either be delivered to the Boulder County Public Health if it was recovered in Boulder County or the Weld County Department of Health will come retrieve the head if the animal was recovered in Weld County.

IV. ANIMAL SHELTER

- A. The designated Animal Shelter for the Town of Erie is the Humane Society of Boulder Valley, located at 2323 55th Street, Boulder, CO 80301 and this shelter shall be used for impounding animals.
- B. Officers should use the department's microchip scanner on domesticated animals in an effort to identify the owner prior to transporting the animal to the Humane Society.

V. DIRECTIVE REVIEW

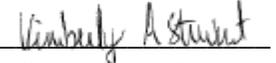
Officers will review this policy annually and will receive training per C.R.S. 29-5-112 in the handling and recognizing of vicious animals.

RULES:

NONE

REFERENCES:

Colorado Parks and Wildlife literature 2014


Kimberly A. Stewart
Chief of Police