

2.404 ANIMAL COMPLAINTS & BITES

2.404.10 Rabid Animals

- A. Animals suspected of having rabies must be safely confined or destroyed.
 - 1. Officers will act promptly to confine animals if it can be done safely.
 - 2. Animals that cannot be safely confined will be destroyed.
- B. With permission from Animal Control, domestic animals may be confined to owners' premises for legally prescribed quarantine periods following incidents where the animals bite, scratch or otherwise exposes a human to saliva, or breaks the skin of another animal or human.
- C. Duties and responsibilities of officers responding to incidents involving suspected rabid animals include, as appropriate:
 - 1. Attempting to locate the animals and their owners;
 - 2. Keeping non-essential persons out of the vicinity of the animals;
 - 3. Attempting to contain and/or destroy the animals without endangering themselves or others;
 - 4. Attempting to keep the animals from escaping;
 - 5. Ensuring Prince George's Co. Animal Control is notified;
 - 6. Ensuring agency personnel remain with confined animals awaiting pick-up or destroyed animals pending arrival of Animal Control personnel;
 - 7. Obtaining thorough descriptions of animals if they cannot be located; and
 - 8. Completing MIRs.

2.404.20 Vicious, Dangerous, Sick, or Injured Animals

- A. Vicious or dangerous animals are animals which have attacked, bitten or injured, without provocation, other animals or persons, or have demonstrated propensities to attack or bite persons.
- B. Officers believing animals to be vicious or dangerous will take immediate steps to safely confine the animals pending removal from the community by Animal Control personnel. Animals that cannot be safely confined pending removal may be destroyed consistent with **2.404.40**.
- C. Officers will attempt to contact owners of sick or injured domestic animals in order to determine owners' wishes with respect to disposition of their sick or injured animals.
- D. Duties and responsibilities of officers responding to incidents involving vicious, dangerous, sick, or injured animals include, as appropriate:
 - 1. Attempting to locate the animals and their owners;
 - 2. Keeping non-essential persons out of the vicinity of the animals;
 - 3. Attempting to contain and/or destroy the animals without endangering themselves or others;
 - 4. Attempting to keep the animals from escaping;
 - 5. Ensuring Prince George's Co. Animal Control is notified;
 - 6. Ensuring agency personnel remain with confined animals awaiting pick-up or destroyed animals pending arrival of Animal Control personnel;
 - 7. Obtaining thorough descriptions of animals if they cannot be located; and
 - 8. Completing MIRs.

2.404.30 Animal Bites, Etc.

- A. Officers will complete Animal Bite Reports, PGC Form Z-6, whenever incidents are reported wherein persons receive, from warm-blooded animals, bites, scratches, or exposure to saliva through open wounds or mucous membranes, even when the animals are owned by the victims or their families.
- B. Duties and responsibilities of officers responding to incidents involving animal bites, etc., include, as appropriate:
 - 1. Attempting to locate the animals and their owners;
 - 2. Keeping non-essential persons out of the vicinity of the animals;

- 3. Attempting to contain and/or destroy the animals consistent with these directives without endangering themselves or others;
 - 4. Attempting to keep the animals from escaping;
 - 5. Ensuring agency personnel remain with confined animals awaiting pick-up or destroyed animals pending arrival of Animal Control personnel;
 - 6. Obtaining thorough descriptions of animals if they cannot be located;
 - 7. Completing Animal Bite Reports and MIRs;
 - 8. Providing copies of animal bite reports to victims and advising them to contact the County Health Department;
 - 9. Completing and attempting to serve animal owners with "Conditions of Quarantine Agreements" and provide them copies of Animal Bite Reports; and
 - 10. Faxing Animal Control and the County Health Department copies of Animal Bite Reports within 24 hours.
- C. Officers will ensure Animal Control is contacted and requested to respond, seize, and quarantine animals if:
 - 1. Owners refuse to sign the "Conditions of Quarantine Agreements;" or
 - 2. Officers have articulable reason to believe that owners will not or cannot comply with quarantine conditions.

2.404.40 Destroying Animals

- A. **2.830 Use of Firearms** establishes criteria for destroying animals.
- B. In order to facilitate any needed testing for rabies, officers destroying possibly rabid animals or animals who are sick, vicious, or dangerous will attempt to do so without shooting the animals in their heads.
- C. Duties and responsibilities of officers destroying animals include, but are not limited to:
 - 1. Ensuring Animal Control is notified to pick up the animal carcasses;
 - 2. Ensuring control over animal carcasses is maintained until being picked up by Animal Control; and
 - 3. Completing MIRs.

2.404.50 Dead Animal Notifications

- A. Work Control will be contacted and requested to remove animal carcasses on university grounds and roadways.
- B. Animal Control will be contacted and requested to remove animal carcasses within the agency's concurrent jurisdiction or on municipal or state roadways.
- C. MSP will be notified and requested to respond with "Road Kill" tags whenever deer are struck and killed by motor vehicles.