



**CHEVY CHASE
VILLAGE
POLICE
DEPARTMENT**

Police Chief: John Fitzgerald

GENERAL ORDER: 5-5.1 ANIMAL DESTRUCTION

DATE: 11/28/2016 Pages: 1 ◇ New ◇ Amended ◆ Revised 5-5.1

I. DESTROYING ANIMALS—GENERALLY

A. Officers are authorized to use a firearm to destroy an animal if it can be done under the following circumstances:

1. To destroy a vicious or suspected rabid animal when it presents a danger to person(s) or other animals in the area and other methods of containment are either insufficient or unavailable, and
2. To destroy an animal that is so seriously injured that humanity dictates that is should be relieved from further suffering.

B. If an officer discharges a firearm to destroy an animal pursuant to this general order to prevent further suffering or one that is suspected to be rabid, he/she will complete an incident report along with a Use of Force Report prior to the end of the tour of duty for that day.

II. RABID OR VICIOUS ANIMALS

A. An officer using a firearm to destroy a suspected rabid or vicious animal should make an effort to avoid shooting the animal in the head in order to preserve the animal's brain for laboratory testing for the presence of rabies.

B. Officers will ensure that the destruction can be done without endangering the life and/or property of anyone.

C. If a person has been bitten or has had direct contact with an animal suspected of being diseased, officers must immediately notify the Montgomery County Animal Services Division (ASD) and remain on the scene until ASD has picked up the carcass. If the animal did not have contact with anyone, officers must determine if they can safely move the carcass to the Public Works yard without exposing themselves (plastic gloves; large plastic garbage bag).

D. If the carcass can be safely removed to the Public Works yard, then officers should do so and place it in a marked container and notify Animal Control to pick it up there. Officers must notify, without delay, the Public Works supervisor and the Director of Municipal Operations of the presence of the carcass.

E. If, for any reason, officers cannot safely move the carcass, officers shall remain with the carcass until ASD can remove it.

III. SERIOUSLY INJURED ANIMALS

A. Before destroying any domestic animal in order to relieve it from further suffering, officers will:

1. Make a reasonable effort to locate the animal's owner or person(s) caring for the animal.
2. If the animal's owner/caretaker cannot be readily located or is not available, determine if a Montgomery County Animal Control Officer can respond to transport the animal to an appropriate facility.
3. Ensure that the discharge of any firearm will not jeopardize human life or property. Be cognizant of the shooting background.

B. Following the destruction of an injured animal, officers will:

1. Ensure that a supervisor is notified as soon as possible.
2. Document all efforts to locate the animal's owner/caretaker in the narrative of the report.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW OF REPORTS

A. Upon receiving an Incident Report, the supervisor shall, at a minimum, review the event to:

1. Determine adherence to Department policies and procedures;
2. Identify any training needs; and/or
3. Make any constructive recommendations, suggestions or comments.

B. The Chief of Police will review all animal destruction reports.

This directive voids the previous version dated 5/28/2013.