



# Training Bulletin

SANTA BARBARA POLICE DEPARTMENT



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## Animal Control *Dog Bites & Call Outs*

Animal Control Office is staffed by 3 fulltime AC officers and managed by Lt. Baker. Regular business hours are Monday thru Friday 0800 – 1600 hours, general animal inquires can be referred to (805) 963-1513. A callout rotation for after hour emergencies (nights and weekends) has been established and can be request thru dispatch. On average AC responds to 175 calls per month, some of which are generated from the patrol call for service side. This bulletin is intended to assist department members with interactions they may have with animals and owners, as well as to clarify AC practices and additional resources.

**Definition of a dog bite-** Anytime the person's skin is broken or punctured by the teeth or mouth of a dog. Contact which does not cause skin breakage is not considered a bite. Any time a human is bitten by any animal or there is a concern for human safety, a police officer should be dispatched prior to / at the same time as the Animal Control Officer to assess the situation. Police Officer can issue a citation for violation of the municipal code or investigate & document in a report and refer it to Animal Control. In addition to the report please send an email to [AC@sbpd.com](mailto:AC@sbpd.com) with all parties' information. Bite Reports are time sensitive, AC may need to follow-up before the report is processed and referred. Appropriate Municipal Code sections for citing

- Animal at Large 6.08.020 MC
- Public Nuisance 6.08.040 MC

<http://www.santabarbaraca.gov/gov/cityhall/municode.asp>

### **Dispatch**

When receiving a call about a dog bite, the dispatcher should encourage the reporting party or bite victim to obtain all pertinent information and contact animal control during business hours. Pertinent information includes:

- Animal Owner's name, phone number and address
- Type of animal and description
- Animal's name and license tag number
- Name of the animal's veterinarian

- Day, time, and location of incident
- License plate of vehicle associated with the owner

If after business hours a CAD call can be created and held (until next business day) for animal control to contact the reporting party, or send an email can be send with all pertinent information requesting a call be generated.

**THE ON CALL ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER SHALL BE CONTACTED IF:**

1. The biting animal is still loose and the owner is not present.
2. The animal owner is transient.
3. The animal owner is uncooperative with the RP or victim, and a police officer has been dispatched.

**Responding Officer**

Upon arriving on scene, the officer should first ensure that the involved animal is confined. If the owner and victim or reporting parties are present then street checks should be completed for ALL involved parties. Please be diligent to obtain:

- Animal Owner's name, phone number and address
- Type of animal and description
- Animal's name and license tag number
- Name of the animal's veterinarian
- Day, time, and location of incident
- License plate of vehicle associated with the owner

If possible, the victim's injuries and the involved dog should be photographed. (CSI if available)

All involved parties should be instructed to contact animal control during business hours (805) 963-1513. The dog owner should also be instructed to take the dog home and keep it there away from the public until they have been in contact with Animal Control.

The incident should be documented in a report to be referred to AC. A synopsis, contact information and photos should be sent as soon as practical to AC via e-mail [AC@sbgpd.com](mailto:AC@sbgpd.com)

**Responses to FAQ's**

- ❖ ***K9 vs. K9*** – Considered to be civil issue, involved parties should be encouraged to exchange information, Animal Control is not involved.
- ❖ ***Snakes*** - Animal Control can respond during normal business hours to a complaint about a snake. Afterhours, Animal Control can be called out if a snake is inside an inhabited dwelling, or if the reporting party believes a rattlesnake is in their enclosed backyard.

❖ **Pigeons & Crows** - Defecating on reporting party's property: Animal Control will not respond to wild birds causing a nuisance. The reporting party can be referred to call a Pest Control Company. If the offending birds are domesticated homing pigeons or doves and the reporting party can supply the owner's address, Animal Control can follow up during normal business hours.

❖ **Feeding wildlife** / birds / feral cats etc. - If the reporting party has the address of the neighbor supplying food to wildlife, Animal Control can follow up and give a warning however all Fish & Game codes (under which this would be most applicable) are enforced by Fish & Wildlife. The reporting party shall be given Fish & Wildlife's number as well: 805-568-1231.

❖ **Rabbits** - If a reporting party calls regarding a wild rabbit issue, they shall be directed to call a Pest Control Company. If the rabbit is possibly a domestic rabbit (not the brown/gray wild rabbits we have locally), the reporting party shall contact Animal Control so they can attempt to catch it and locate an owner.

❖ **Rodents**' - Rats and mice problems need to be referred to Pest Control as specialized equipment is typically required. Injured rats and mice shall be referred to Wildlife Care Network (681-1080).

❖ **Wildlife sighting** - Animal Control only becomes involved in wildlife calls for specific reasons-mostly those needing to be euthanized. Reporting parties wishing to report sightings of bears, mountain lions, coyotes, etc OR are wanting to voice a complaint about a wildlife issue shall be referred to Fish & Wildlife (805-568-1231).

❖ **Miscellaneous** - Neighbor / outdoor / feral cats defecating or causing a nuisance: The reporting party shall contact Animal Control during normal business hours. Once the ACO assesses the situation, a "have-a-heart" trap may be loaned to attempt capture, or the owner of the outdoor cat can be contacted.

### **Department Policy 365.1**

From time to time Officers will deal with have contact with animals during the performance of their duties. Please refer to the department Policy Manual online for further <http://portal/committees/manuals/Shared%20Documents/2013%20SBPD%20Department%20Manual%20Nov%202012.pdf>