

# BATON ROUGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

General Order  
No.278

Effective Date  
11-01-1994

Revised Date  
01-01-2001

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Subject: Wild or Vicious Animals

Reviewed 9/1/16

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## POLICY

It is the policy of this department to assist agencies such as Animal Control or Wildlife and Fisheries with regard to wild, vicious, or other animals at large that may cause public concern. However, when the proper agency is unavailable or has to be called out and a great length of time will elapse before their arrival, the situation may be such that the responding officers should act.

The following procedure will address those circumstances that are discretionary.

## DEFINITIONS

**Domesticated Animals:** Animals normally kept as pets (i.e. dogs, cats, birds, etc.)

**Livestock:** Farm animals (i.e. horses, cattle, and sheep)

**Wild Animals:** Animals that are not customarily domesticated as pets or for farm use (i.e. alligators, raccoons, etc.)

## PROCEDURES

### I. Domesticated Animals

#### A. Animal Bites

1. Animal Control will be the primary responder for animal bites within the Parish. However, after normal working hours Animal Control officers must be called out to the scene. Under certain conditions officers may be dispatched. In that instance, the following procedure will be followed:
  - a. Officers will determine if the victim's skin has been punctured by the animal's teeth. If so, Animal Control must be contacted. The responding officer will file a written report. A copy of this report will be forwarded to Animal Control.
  - b. Field officers will make every effort to locate the animal. If the animal is located, animal control will respond to the location. If not, a description of the animal will be obtained and a search conducted.
  - c. Officers will be aware that some pet owners may resist having their animals impounded. The Animal Control officer may offer them the option of housing the animal at their veterinarian instead of the Center. However, the order of the Animal Control officer is law and the owner must comply or face arrest.

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**B. Vicious Animals**

1. If an officer is confronted with a vicious animal that has not yet bitten anyone, he will notify communications and attempt to secure the area so that no one will be bitten.
2. Animal Control will be notified and the officer advised of Animal Control's response.
3. If Animal Control will not respond, the officer will complete a report and resume patrol unless the animal is so obviously vicious that to leave him at large will constitute an immediate and present risk of death or great bodily harm to persons in the area. In these rare cases the rules governing the use of deadly force may apply.

**II. Livestock**

- A. If a field officer is confronted with a situation involving loose livestock, he will attempt to contain the livestock, summoning additional units as necessary. Of particular importance is keeping the livestock off the roadway.
- B. If the officer is unable to locate the owner of the livestock, he will notify communications who will then notify the Animal Control officer on call. The officer(s) will provide whatever assistance he requires to corral the livestock.
- C. The location to be used as a holding facility for loose livestock is Brown's stockyard, 5111 Airline Hwy.

**III. Wild Animals**

- A. If an officer is confronted with a situation where a wild animal is causing concern or disturbing someone, he will attempt to contain the animal and notify communications.
- B. Communications will then notify the Wildlife and Fisheries Agency. This agency has jurisdiction over injured wild animals. Officers should expect an extended response, as an agent may have to be called out.
- C. Officers may assist agents in removing the wild animal, consistent with established safety procedures.
- D. The Animal Control Center will also respond to wild animal bites where the skin has been punctured and to dangerous wild animal situations.