

JACKSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Number: 19.0

October 2019

ANIMAL CONTROL

19.1 TOWN ORDINANCE

- A. Any dog bite incident within the Town of Jackson comes under Town Ordinance 7.05.030 (Biting, aggressive, or vicious animals), except those where the dog's owner is the victim.

19.2 STATE STATUTE

- A. The relevant State Statute for dog bites is W.S.S.11-31-301 (e)

19.3 QUARANTINES

- A. Any dog within the Town that bites someone, other than its owner, and is not current on its rabies vaccination should be quarantined at the shelter for ten (10) days or euthanized and sent to the State Lab for testing. Under state statute, a dog that is current on its rabies vaccination shall not be quarantined.
- B. The reason for quarantine is to determine if the dog has rabies. Rabies, if left untreated, is always fatal and vaccinating against rabies is not 100% effective. A dog may still contract the disease.
- C. Rabies is transmitted by the saliva of an infected animal, and any bite or scratch is suspect. Anyone who is bitten or scratched by an infected animal needs to be inoculated, which is why quarantine is so important.
- D. When in doubt, the animal should be quarantined until a professional can be consulted.

19.4 DOG BITE PROCEDURE

- A. A dog bite is considered a criminal offense. Use standard crime investigation procedures in dealing with the incident. A crime report is required.
 - 1. Interview both the victim and the suspect (dog owner).
 - 2. Interview any witnesses and take statements.
 - 3. Gather evidence and take pictures of the wound.
 - 4. Issue a citation, if appropriate, and check the "must appear" box.
 - 5. Impound and quarantine the dog for ten (10) days at the Shelter, if needed.
 - 6. Fill out impound form at the Shelter with as much detail as possible (such as potential aggressiveness of the dog and/or owner and case number).

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19.5 CATS

- A. Under the Game and fish regulations feral cats are considered predatory animals.
- B. Any cat running at large may be considered a feral cat and may be impounded and taken to the Shelter. This includes pet household cats that are running at large.
- C. In the case of a cat biting someone, there are no ordinances governing the impounding or quarantine of a cat. However, for public safety reasons it is highly advisable to follow the same protocol as for a dog bite. Any cat running at large that bites someone may be quarantined to determine if it has rabies.

19.6 WILD ANIMALS

- A. The Wyoming Game and Fish Department is the agency having jurisdiction over all wild animals in the state. This includes game animals, fur bearing animals and predatory animals. In the case of wildlife, a reasonable effort should be made to contact the Department of Game and Fish before removing or capturing the animal.

19.7 DESTRUCTION AND HANDLING OF ANIMALS

- A. Any aggressive animal that poses an immediate threat to the safety and wellbeing of the public may be destroyed on scene. This includes both domestic and wild animals.
- B. Caution is advised both in the method used to destroy the animal and the method used to handle the dead animal. The method of destruction should be as humane as practical.
- C. If circumstances necessitate, the animal may be shot. However, if the animal is suspected to have rabies, do not shoot the animal in the head. The head is needed to determine if the animal has rabies.
- D. If the animal is suspected to have rabies, extreme care must be taken when handling the body.
 - 1. Bag the carcass and immediately transport it to a veterinarian. (Do not freeze the body, as this will invalidate any tests).
 - 2. Inform the veterinarian that you suspect the animal has rabies and have him send the animal's head to the State Lab for testing.
 - 3. All articles that come in contact with the animal should be considered a biohazard and should be disposed of in an appropriate manner.

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- E. If you destroy an animal on scene, remember to always contact the agency having jurisdiction.

19.8 ANIMAL CONTROL CHEMICAL CAPTURE

- A. Chemical capture is the use of drugs to restrain, immobilize or capture an animal.
- B. Chemical capture may be used when an animal poses a threat to persons or property.
- C. Chemical capture is not applicable to every situation and should not be considered a replacement for more traditional methods. Since each situation involving the capture of an animal is different, each decision should be made only for that specific event.
- D. Drug Storage and Transportation
 1. All chemical capture drugs should be stored in a secure location. Access should be limited to authorized personnel only.
 2. Capture drugs and equipment used for a specific event may be transported in a vehicle to the area where the animal is located. Drugs should be locked inside the vehicle inside a storage container. Appropriate measures should be taken to insure the safety both to the officers and to the public at the scene.
 3. For use in the field the container may be removed from the vehicle and the required equipment taken and made ready. Drugs in the field must be secured in such a manner as to eliminate the possibility of accidental exposure or theft.
 4. Upon completion of the field operation the drugs shall be returned to the secure location within the Department.
- E. Field Operations
 1. Officers shall use chemical capture drugs in compliance with State and Federal statutes and regulations.
 2. Prior to engaging in an animal capture, officers should:
 - a) Gather everyone involved at the scene and discuss the operation;
 - b) Discuss the routine and duties of each person;
 - c) Discuss animal/public etiquette;
 - d) Cover potential emergencies;
 - e) Ask questions.
 3. Before capturing and handling animals, officers should determine the method that will be the most effective in safe guarding the public and minimizing injury to the animal. Alternative methods to chemical

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- immobilization, time of year, type and status of animals, environmental conditions, public safety, etc., should be considered.
4. The first animal control officer on scene should observe the situation from a safe distance and make a determination as to the best method to use to capture the animal.
 5. If chemical capture appears to be the preferred method, contact a Sergeant/Supervisor and inform them of the situation. The Sergeant/Supervisor, in discussion with the Animal Control Officer, will make the final determination whether or not to use chemical capture.
 6. Capture equipment and drugs should be transported to the scene in a secure box inside the patrol vehicle.
 7. The animal control officer should make the capture equipment and drugs ready at the scene. When possible another officer knowledgeable in first aid should be present.
 8. Be aware of environmental hazards in the area that may pose a danger to yourself and the animal (i.e. vehicle traffic, construction sites, heavy timber bodies of water, etc.)
 9. All personnel not directly involved in the capture should be kept outside the immediate area.
 10. It is important to ensure the proper drugs and dosages are used to provide the necessary analgesia and anesthesia to accomplish the capture in a humane way.
 11. Capture drugs should only be injected into the heavy muscles of the neck, shoulder or hindquarters. Injections in other areas may result in severe injury or death.
 12. *Caution:* The drugs usually take from 5-15 minutes to work. Be aware that the animal will probably try to run and hide. Once the drug is administered the animal should be observed and followed from a safe distance.
 13. Once the animal is down, approach the animal cautiously and quietly as there should be no unnecessary noise or commotion.
 14. Animals should be appropriately positioned and restrained to prevent injury during handling and transportation. Eye ointment may be placed in the eyes and the head may be covered with a loose fitting blind. A muzzle is *not* recommended. Remove the animal from the scene and transport it in a manner that presents the least amount of injury and stress.
 15. Transport domesticated animals to the animal shelter or to a veterinarian. The animal should be observed and monitored until the effects of the drugs have worn off. *In the event the owner of the animal is established, the owner should be contacted.*

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16. In the case of wildlife, the animal should be returned to its normal habitat and monitored until it has recovered from the drugs.
 17. If injured beyond likely recovery, animals should be humanely euthanized.
 18. All deceased animals should be disposed of in the appropriate manner.
 19. Any animal suspected of having rabies should be sent to the state lab for testing. (See 19.7 D)
- F. By its nature, chemical capture of animals is often dangerous and difficult. If too little drug is used or if it is administered wrong, the capture may fail and the animal may be injured or die. If too much drug is given, the animal may overdose and not survive. Some animals will have adverse reactions to the drugs. Because the drugs and equipment used for chemical capture are dangerous, only trained individuals who are comfortable and knowledgeable about the procedure should use them.
- G. The use of drugs for chemical capture poses a risk of injury and/or death to the animal. In a case where an officer follows procedure, he/she shall not be subject to punitive action for the injury or death of the animal.