



<b>Series</b> 200 Operations	<b>Effective Date</b> 09/01/2022	<b>Review Date</b> Annually	<b>Directive Number</b>  <b>201.9</b>
<b>Chapter</b> 201 - Patrol Operations			
<b>Reviewing Office</b> Planning, <i>Research</i> , and Deployment			<input type="checkbox"/> <b>New Directive</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Reviewed</b> <i>Revisions in italics</i>
<b>References</b>			

## ANIMAL PROCEDURES

### 201.9 - 1 POLICY

1. It is normally not a police function to treat or convey persons bitten by an animal. However, appropriate action shall be taken when a response unit is dispatched to, or a patrolling unit comes upon, the scene of an animal bite where departmental intervention is necessary. Additionally, it may become necessary for a member to shoot a dangerous and/or rabid animal that is posing an imminent threat of danger to the officer or others, but only when bystanders are not in jeopardy.
2. Further, a member shall take the appropriate action when encountering an animal that is seriously injured or mangled beyond recovery. The member shall contact the Animal Control Center to request pick-up of the animal. If the Animal Control Center is not available for pick-up, and with the authorization of a supervisor, a member may use a firearm to destroy the injured animal.

### 201.9 - 2 Emergency Cases

1. The following circumstances constitute an emergency animal bite:
  - a. There is serious bleeding or injury;
  - b. The victim is bitten by an unknown dog or other animal that is still at large; or
  - c. It is otherwise obvious that immediate medical attention is necessary.
2. The officers shall notify the zone dispatcher. The zone dispatcher shall ascertain the availability of an Emergency Medical Service Unit, and shall advise the officers if an Emergency Medical Service Unit is responding. In addition, the responding member shall notify the Department of Health, Animal Control Center by telephone at (313) 224-7135 and shall prepare a Report of Animal Bite, DPD 129, in triplicate. The original and one (1) copy of the report shall be forwarded to the Department of Health, Animal Control Center or fax the report to (313) 962-0135, within twenty-four (24) hours, and the third copy shall be filed at the precinct. The member shall complete an *Incident* Report detailing the circumstances of the incident. If the animal is at the scene and presents a danger to the community the responding officers may attempt to capture or contain the animal if it can be done so safely.

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**201.9 - 3 Non-Emergency Cases**

In the event a patrolling unit is dispatched to, or comes upon the scene of an animal bite, which is of a non-emergency nature, the caller or complainant shall be advised to see a private physician and report the bite to the Department of Health, Animal Control Center. That agency will prepare the report of animal bite and conduct the investigation.

**201.9 - 4 Ordinance Violation Notices**

When a member issues an ordinance violation notice in an animal bite case, the owner of the animal shall receive the defendant copy of the ordinance. The issuing member need not appear in court unless notified to do so.

**201.9 - 5 Precinct Station**

1. When a dog or other animal comes into the possession of this department, the Animal Control Center shall be notified without delay. If an Animal Control officer arrives at the precinct to pick up the animal, the Impounded Animal Report (DPD46) shall be prepared in duplicate. The original copy shall be signed by the officer from the Animal Control Center and turned over with the animal. The copy shall be retained at the precinct.
2. When an animal (after having bitten any person or animal) is temporarily detained at a precinct that has facilities for animals, the animal shall be isolated from other animals.
3. If a person is arrested while in possession of an animal, the officer-in-charge of the precinct desk shall have a relative of the prisoner or other responsible person notified to pick up the animal. If the animal is not picked up within a reasonable time thereafter, the Animal Control Center shall be notified to pick up the animal.
4. When officers find animals abandoned or running astray, he/she shall make a reasonable effort to locate the owner. If unsuccessful, the officer-in-charge of the precinct desk shall notify the Animal Control Center to pick up the animal. The Animal Control Center is open after hours for drop-offs only.

**201.9 - 6 Lost or Stolen Animals**

When a dog or other animal is reported lost or stolen, an *incident* report shall be prepared and forwarded to the Animal Control Center.

**201.9 - 7 Dead Animals**

1. If stored separately from solid waste, all small dead animals weighing one hundred (100) pounds or less will be collected without charge, upon the request made to the Department of Public Works Solid Waste Division at (313) 876-0023, provided

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that a charge will be made by the Department of Public Works for all such animals collected from animal hospitals, kennels, etc.

2. The Department of Public Works Solid Waste Division will collect dead animals weighing over one hundred (100) pounds for a fee as determined by its Director and approved by City Council (Sec. 22-2-20, City of Detroit Code).

Reference - Detroit Police Department Manual Directive 304.2 - 4.7, Use of Force, Dangerous Animals.

### 201.9 - 8 Destroying Animals

Under circumstances where an officer comes in contact with an animal which is seriously injured or mangled beyond recovery and the Animal Control Center is unavailable for pick-up, the officer shall notify a supervisor via dispatch to respond to the scene. The responding supervisor shall determine if destruction of the animal is the appropriate action. If the supervisor determines the animal should be destroyed, he/she shall acquire written permission from the owner to destroy the animal. If the owner is unavailable, the supervisor may authorize the member to use a firearm to destroy the injured animal. The authorizing supervisor shall prepare a Destruction of Animal Report on the incident.

#### Related Policies:

- Directive 304.2 – Use of Force

#### Related Forms:

- Destruction of Animal Report (DPD 669)
- Report of Animal Bite (DPD 129)
- Impounded Animal Report (DPD 46)