

Animal Problems

315.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Animal problems will usually be handled by Animal Control; however, deputies should make every effort to assist citizens in resolving animal related problems whenever possible.

315.1.1 BARKING DOGS

Advise the citizen to phone their local Animal Control office.

315.1.2 MOUNTAIN LION SIGHTINGS

Advise dispatch to notify Fish and Game. Consider patrol checking for the animal if the sighting was in a populated area, especially near a school.

315.1.3 INJURED ANIMAL

For specific direction regarding "Injured Animal", refer to policy 300.4 Use of Force Policy.

315.1.4 STOPPING A DANGEROUS ANIMAL

For specific direction regarding "Stopping a Dangerous Animal", refer to policy 300.4 Use of Force Policy.

315.1.5 STRAY ANIMALS

1. Animal Control will respond for dogs if loose or contained.
2. Cats or wild animals must be contained in most cases before animal control will respond.

315.1.6 DEAD ANIMALS

1. Advise dispatch to notify Animal Control.
2. Dead animals causing traffic or other hazard should be moved to a location that will eliminate the hazard until animal control can arrive.

315.1.7 ANIMAL BITES

1. Advise dispatch to notify Animal Control on all animal bites.
2. If a bite occurs in an unincorporated area, advise the victim to call the Animal Control Rabies Desk,. If a bite occurs in a contract city, advise the victim to call Animal Control for that particular city. ECB has a listing of those numbers.

315.1.8 ANIMALS VS. VEHICLE COLLISIONS

1. In an unincorporated area, advise the driver to notify the CHP if a report is requested or required by law.
2. In a contract city, take a traffic collision report if the accident meets the minimum reporting level in the Division where the accident occurred.

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315.2 ANIMALS TAKEN FROM AN ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER OR ANIMAL SHELTER

1. CPC 102 is the most appropriate code section in most cases: "Every person who willfully injures or destroys, or takes or attempts to take, or assists any person in taking or attempting to take, from the custody of any officer or person, any personal property which such officer or person has in charge under any process of law, is guilty of a misdemeanor."
 - (a) In addition to the usual information gathered for a crime report, include:
 1. The date and time that the animal was impounded.
 2. The name of the officer who did the impound.
 3. Reason for impounding the animal and the appropriate penal code, municipal code, or county ordinance authorizing the impound.
 4. Location from which the animal was impounded.
 5. Fees due for the animal.
 6. Witness statements.
 7. Any identifying marks or characteristics of the animal.
 8. Estimated value of the animal.
 - (b) A supplemental DR "A" for any local ordinance that prohibits removing an animal from the custody of an animal shelter without permission should be submitted with all CPC 102 reports.
2. Other Code sections apply when the suspect does not own the animal.
 - (a) CPC 459 Burglary, 488 Petty Theft, 487 Grand Theft, 487e Grand Theft Dog, or 487f Petty Theft Dog.
 - (b) Corpus elements do not apply under these sections when a person takes his own property.