

# **Germantown Police Department**

## **Policies and Procedures**

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**Number:** 15-2  
**Effective Date:** October 9, 2006  
**Subject:** Animals  
**Previous Revisions:**

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### **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for officers responding to calls regarding animals.

### **II. POLICY**

It is the policy of the Germantown Police Department that all officers should respond to calls regarding animals in a cautious manner and act in a manner consistent with established policies, appropriate Germantown City Ordinances, and controlling Tennessee statutes.

### **III. HANDLING OF LOOSE ANIMALS**

A Germantown Animal Control Officer should be called through the Communications Center to handle loose animals. If an Animal Control Officer is not available, responding officers will take appropriate action to contain or apprehend loose or dangerous animals.

### **IV. AID TO ANIMAL SHELTER OFFICERS**

Germantown Animal Shelter Officers are responsible for issuing citations to persons whom they witness violating animal laws. If persons to whom a citation is to be issued refuse to identify themselves to the Animal Shelter Officer or refuse to sign the citation as required by law, the Animal Shelter Officer will contact the Communications Center and request the aid of the Germantown Police Department.

The officer that responds to the call shall accompany the Animal Shelter Officer to the location where the offender resides or is to be found. The Animal Shelter Officer who has witnessed the misdemeanor City Ordinance offense will then place the violator under citizen-arrest. The police officer will then have the responsibility of transporting the violator to jail.

Whenever an Animal Shelter Officer calls and requests the assistance of the Germantown Police Department in enforcing the laws of the City of Germantown, or whenever an Animal Shelter Officer needs help, the officers of the Germantown Police Department should respond promptly.

## **V. HANDLING OF ANIMAL BITE CALLS**

Pursuant to Germantown City Ordinance 5-15(b), “Any dog, whether or not previously declared dangerous or potentially dangerous, that attacks a person and thereby causes death or serious bodily injury, or bites and breaks the skin of a person will be impounded and quarantined the proper length of time for rabies observation and testing, if necessary.”

When a police officer receives a call regarding a person that has been bitten by an animal that is to be held for observation, that officer should take an “Animal Bite” offense report regarding the incident. A copy of the report should be forwarded to the Animal Shelter. The following information should be furnished in the report:

- A. Name and Address of the Bitten Party. In the event the bitten party leaves the scene for medical attention, the Animal Shelter needs to know where the victim will receive treatment. It is necessary for the Animal Shelter Officer to make contact with the bitten party before picking up the animal.
- B. Description and Location of the Animal. Information should also be furnished as to whether the animal is contained or loose.
- C. Obtain Rabies Vaccination Information. Attempt to obtain information of the rabies vaccination license from the owner and put the information in the narrative of the Offense Report.
- D. Name and Address of the Owner of the Animal. This information should be furnished, if available.
- E. If the victim of the animal bite is the owner or the owner’s immediate family, no report will be necessary unless there is serious injury, the animal is vicious or the animal has not been vaccinated.

## **VI. USE OF FIREARMS AGAINST ANIMALS**

Any use of firearms against an animal must meet the criteria outlined in the Germantown City Ordinance 5-11 – Animals – Use of Firearms and in the Deadly Force policy found in Chapter 2, Section 8 of this Manual.

**VII. REVIEW PROCESS**

An annual review of this policy shall be conducted to determine if it should be revised, cancelled or continued in its present form.

This order shall remain in effect until revoked or superseded by competent authority.