



# YARMOUTH POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICY AND PROCEDURE

## HANDLING ANIMALS

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### Policy

The following guidelines are meant to initiate operational policies and procedures for the Yarmouth Police Department and the effective utilization of the Yarmouth Department of Natural Resources.

It is important to notify Department of Natural Resources/Animal Control on all calls for service/incidents involving **animals of any kind**. DNR will follow-up and take the necessary steps to correct any problems, which in turn keeps neighbors happy and deduce repeat visits to the same location.

The DNR/Animal Control is established to provide trained personnel to assist in all aspects of animal control. The DNR will complement the animal hazard response of the patrol function of the Department. Every effort should be made to notify DNR for each animal complaint. The real value of the DNR, however, lies in its use as a back-up resource for the officers at the scene of dangerous or injured animals.

### Procedure

#### A. WILD ANIMALS

1. Any wild animal in a person's home or business: police officers will notify DNR, respond and contain if safe to do so. Assist any persons to a safe area.
2. Rabid, sick or dangerous animals **outside** a home or business: police officers will notify DNR as soon as possible and protect public from contact with the animal.

3. If the wild animal poses an eminent threat, police officers have to use their best judgment to protect lives: Follow Yarmouth Police Department policy Use of Force, Deadly Force Restrictions. Officers may use deadly force to destroy an animal that represents a threat to public safety or as a humanitarian measure where the animal is seriously injured when the officer reasonable believes that deadly force can be used without harm to the officer or others. It is important to take protective measures to avoid being contaminated with the body fluids of potentially rabid animals.

## **B. DOMESTICATED ANIMALS**

1. Non-aggressive, unattended dog or cat running around a neighborhood: Notify Animal Control via radio or telephone. If no one answers at Animal Control leave the nature of the call, description of the dog, time, date, location, and the owner's name and address if known. When animals roaming freely which create a public PERCEPTION OF DANGER or pose a potential for causing injury, a police officer will be dispatched and Animal Control will be notified. Officers should not use cruisers to transport animals. Citizens may be advised to transport unattended dogs or cats to animal control during off business hours. Officers can meet citizens at animal control in order to secure the animals at the facility. A phone message should be left for animal control stating when the animal was secured, where it was located and any other circumstances that may be helpful.
2. Barking dog complaints: Notify Animal Control via radio or telephone. If Animal Control is not on duty, send a police officer to verify whether the dog is or is not barking. If the owner is present, advise them that we are receiving complaints and ask them take proper measures to stop the barking. Notify Animal control via their telephone of the complaint, location of the dog, whether you heard the dog barking or not, date and time. Enter the information in the police log.
3. In extreme cases, officers should submit an incident report. Officers may issue by-law violation notices when referral of the case to the Animal Control Officer is impractical.

4. Aggressive dog or cat: Notify DNR/Animal Control immediately. Police Officers need to use their best judgment, based on the circumstances present, to keep persons away from the animal and protect lives: Follow Yarmouth Police Department policy Use of Force, Deadly Force Restrictions. Consult with DNR if possible. A restraint pole is stored in J6.