

	LANE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE POLICY	Number: G.O. 7.25
		Issue Date: March 21, 2005
		Revision Date: November 2, 2005; July 8, 2020
CHAPTER: Patrol		Related Policy: G.O. 1.11 (Use of Discretion), G.O. 7.08 (Incident Response),
SUBJECT: Animal Complaints and Investigation		Related Laws: ORS 133.377, ORS 133.379, ORS 167.315, ORS 167.320, ORS 167.325, ORS 167.330, ORS 167.335, ORS 167.340, and ORS 607.045

POLICY: Deputies must act reasonably and within the limits of their authority as defined by statute, when dealing with companion/livestock animals.

RULE: None

PROCEDURE:

I. Availability of County Animal Control Authority

- A. County Animal Control will function in rural areas, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, with one Animal Officer responding to calls in Lane County.
- B. Cruelty to Animals investigations will be restricted to the cities of Eugene and Springfield. All reports of cruelty to animals outside the city limits of Eugene and Springfield will be referred to the Sheriff's Office.

II. Cruelty to Animals

- A. When a Deputy has probable cause to believe that an animal under human custody has been subjected to any treatment which would constitute a violation of ORS chapter 167 dealing with animal abuse or neglect and determines that a need exists to have the animal medically evaluated, the following procedures shall be utilized:
 - 1. The investigating Deputy shall confer with the field supervisor who will make a determination as to the need for a veterinarian's response to the scene. Every available alternative should be considered prior to calling a veterinarian. Available alternatives may be the procurement of water and/or food for the animal.

2. As in most criminal cases, the District Attorney's Office will pay for veterinary services when such evidence is beneficial for prosecution. The field supervisor shall be responsible for obtaining approval from the District Attorney's Office prior to charging such service to them.
3. When a determination is made to have a veterinarian respond, the investigating Deputy shall notify the Communications Section.
4. When an investigating Deputy determines that an animal which has been subjected to cruelty as defined in ORS 167.315, 167.320, 167.325, 167.330 and 167.335 needs to be transported for safekeeping, or due to injuries, the following procedures shall be utilized:
 - a. If the animal is of a type transported by the Tri-Agency Animal Control Authority, they shall be requested to respond to the scene for transportation to their facility.
 - b. When possible the Lane County Sheriff's Posse will provide transportation, if the animal in question is a horse or other livestock. The Posse member providing transportation will be compensated by Lane County. If the Posse is unavailable then contact one of the services in section C.
 - c. Animals shall not be transported for safekeeping unless they are first medically evaluated or unless approved by the field supervisor.
5. The investigating Deputy shall thoroughly document, in the Incident Report, all facts leading to the decision to have the animal medically evaluated and/or transported for safekeeping.
6. An Evidence/Property Report shall be made for all animals taken into custody under the above guidelines. The investigating Deputy shall place the Evidence Report in the Property Technician's mailbox.

B. Additional Responsibilities

The patrol section shall respond to the following animal related calls:

1. All calls involving ORS 167.315 (Animal abuse in second degree), 167.333 (Sexual assault of an animal), 167.340 (Animal abandonment), 167.355 (Involvement in animal fighting), 167.365 (Dogfighting) and 167.428 (Cockfighting).
2. Livestock running at large, on or near public roadways (Refer ORS 607.045).

3. An injured or dead animal which is creating a traffic hazard, or dangerous, aggressive animal which is threatening public safety, pending the arrival of Animal Control, who shall then handle the call.
 4. Removal of dead game animals from roadway.
 - a. If a road hazard exists, the Deputy shall take only such immediate action necessary to alleviate the hazard, pending removal by the appropriate agency. This action may vary from simply pulling a smaller animal off the traveled portion of the roadway, to standing by and providing traffic control in the case of a larger, immovable animal pending removal.
 - b. The Deputy shall advise Communications to notify the appropriate agency of the type and location of animal for removal.
 - c. On County Roads - Removal will be handled by Lane County Road Department.
 - d. On State Highways - Removal will be handled by the State Highway Department.
- C. If the Sheriff's Office impounds or needs to remove livestock contact one or more of these agencies:
1. Lane County Animal Services
 2. Lane County Land Management
Code Compliance; Deceased Animals
 3. Oregon Humane Society
 4. Sound Equine Options (Transport Resource and Boarding Option)
Kim Mosiman 503-888-3933
Troutdale, OR
 5. Emerald Valley Equine Rescue (Transport Resource)
Sandy Huey 541-554-0196
Eugene, OR