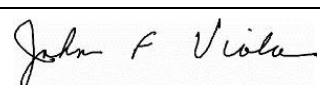




HAVERFORD TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Subject: 6.2.16 Animal Control Warden		Number of Pages: 44
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Authorized By: Chief John F. Viola		Signature: 

Policy

Haverford Township is committed to fostering a safe and harmonious community for its residents and animals. The Animal Control Warden plays an essential role in ensuring public safety, mitigating animal-related nuisances, and promoting the humane treatment of all animals. This policy provides a framework for the effective and ethical performance of the Animal Control Warden's duties.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to clearly define the role and responsibilities of the Animal Control Warden in maintaining public safety and promoting animal welfare. It establishes procedures for managing animal-related issues, including the handling of stray, dangerous, and neglected animals, while ensuring compliance with local, state, and federal regulations governing animal control and welfare. Additionally, the policy aims to foster positive community relations by emphasizing education, enforcement, and collaboration with residents.

Definitions

Animal: Any domestic animal, including but not limited to dogs, cats, feral cats, fowl, or any household pet.

Animal Control Officer: A sworn officer appointed by the Haverford Township Manager authorized to enforce the provisions of this chapter.

Animal Nuisance: Any animal behavior or condition that disrupts the peace, damages property, or endangers the public.

At Large: Any dog, cat, or other domestic animal that is unleashed and is on property open to the public or is on private property not owned or secured by the animal's owner. An animal is not considered "at large" if it is a guide dog for the blind or a hearing dog for the deaf or hard of hearing.

Dangerous Animal: Any animal that poses a threat to public safety or has a history of aggressive behavior, including attacks on humans or other animals.

Impoundment: The act of seizing and confining an animal for violation of laws or ordinances.

Owner: Any person owning, keeping, harboring, or having custody of an animal.

Stray Animal: Any domestic animal found roaming at large without identification or proof of ownership.

Procedures

I. Roles and Responsibilities

A. General Duties

- 1.** Enforce Haverford Township’s animal control ordinances, including [Chapter 49](#) of the Township Code.
- 2.** Respond to complaints about animal-related issues, such as stray animals, dangerous animals, and nuisances.
- 3.** Investigate reports of animal cruelty, neglect, or abuse.
- 4.** Capture and impound stray or dangerous animals, ensuring their safe and humane handling.

B. Public Safety

- 1.** Mitigate risks posed by aggressive or dangerous animals.
- 2.** Educate the public about safety measures regarding interactions with wildlife or unfamiliar animals.
- 3.** Collaborate with law enforcement and other township departments to address situations involving animals that pose an immediate threat to public safety.

C. Animal Welfare

- 1.** Ensure all animals under the Animal Control Warden’s care are treated humanely and receive necessary veterinary care if required.
- 2.** Coordinate with local shelters, rescue organizations, and veterinary professionals to facilitate the adoption or rehabilitation of impounded animals.

II. Response to Complaints

- A.** The Animal Control Warden will respond promptly to reports of stray animals, animal bites, or other related complaints.
- B.** All actions taken will be documented in a detailed report.

III. Animal Capture and Impoundment

- A.** The Warden will use humane methods to capture stray or dangerous animals.
- B.** Impounded animals will be transported to the designated township shelter or facility.
- C.** Owners of impounded animals will be notified, if identifiable, and provided with instructions for reclaiming their pets.

IV. Handling Dangerous Animals

- A.** If an animal poses an immediate threat to public safety, the Warden is authorized to take appropriate action to protect residents, which may include coordinating with law enforcement.
- B.** Dangerous animals will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to determine further action, including rehabilitation or euthanasia if necessary.

V. Investigation of Cruelty or Neglect

- A.** Reports of animal cruelty or neglect will be thoroughly investigated.
- B.** When violations are identified, appropriate enforcement measures, including fines or legal action, will be taken.

VI. Enforcement Authority

- A.** The Animal Control Warden is authorized to:
 - 1.** Issue citations or warnings for violations of animal control ordinances.
 - 2.** Impound animals in violation of leash laws or posing a threat to public safety.
 - 3.** Work with law enforcement and township officials to ensure compliance with all animal-related laws and regulations.

VII. Training and Qualifications

- A.** The Animal Control Warden must:
 - 1.** Complete training on animal handling, first aid, and state animal welfare laws.
 - 2.** Maintain certifications in humane animal capture and control techniques.
 - 3.** Participate in ongoing professional development to stay updated on best practices in animal control and welfare.

VIII. Reporting and Accountability

- A.** The Animal Control Warden will:
 - 1.** Submit regular reports to the Animal Control Officer Supervisor, including data on complaints handled, animals impounded, and enforcement actions taken.
 - 2.** Ensure accurate record-keeping for all incidents, investigations, and resolutions.

3. Be subject to performance evaluations to ensure duties are carried out effectively and in accordance with this policy.

BY ORDER OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE