



TITLE		POLICY NUMBER	
HUMANE ENFORCEMENT			
DISTRIBUTION		EFFECTIVE DATE	PAGE
Memorandum of Understanding (Agency MOU)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NEW <input type="checkbox"/> AMEND <input type="checkbox"/> RECINDS	NUMBER:	SOURCE: SHERIFF	APPLICABLE STANDARD NUMBER:
APPROVED BY: Jimmy McDuffie, Sheriff			DATE:

I. POLICY

The Sheriff's Office will be responsible for investigating and/or assisting with animal related complaints and violations as they relate to unincorporated areas of Effingham County ordinances and Georgia state law.

A. Animal Calls within city limits

- a. Each municipality will be responsible for investigating and enforcing the following animal related incidents:
 - i. Animals at large
 1. If pickup/trap is needed, notify Sheriff's Office dispatch to be placed on pickup/trap list
 2. This does not include owner surrenders of their own animal. They must get appointment with Animal Shelter.
 - ii. General care of animals
 - iii. Injured animals
 1. Injured/sick animals are transported to Effingham Animal Hospital in Rincon after first notifying Animal Shelter.
 - iv. Sick animals
 1. No animals will be collected and tested for rabies unless there is a bite/scratch that breaks human skin
 - v. Nuisance animals
 - vi. Animal waste violations
 - vii. Abandonment of animals
 - viii. Animal cruelty
 - ix. Dogfighting
 - x. Wildlife reports
 1. Majority of complaints transfer to DNR
 - xi. All other city related animal ordinance
 - xii. All other Georgia state law related animal offenses

- b. The Sheriff's Office will be responsible for investigating and enforcing the following animal related incidents regardless of jurisdiction:
 - i. Animal bite/scratch reports when the skin is broken on human victim
 - ii. County ordinance enforcement on animals only when a human bite/scratch victim is present
 - iii. Procedures relating to Effingham County Environmental Health for rabies testing and animal quarantines.
 - 1. These calls will be handled in communication with Environmental Health.
 - iv. Pick up/transport requests when a stray animal is contained
 - 1. Caller will be placed on a waiting list if there is no space at the Animal Shelter
 - v. Trap requests where a stray animal is not able to be contained
 - 1. Caller will be placed on a waiting list if there is no space at the Animal Shelter
 - vi. Assist with transporting sick/injured animals to Effingham Animal Hospital in Rincon
 - 1. Response time will depend on manpower
 - vii. Assist with transporting animals when a criminal case is being pursued by requesting agency

Requesting the on call Humane Deputy after hours

1. In the event the on call Humane Deputy is needed, City Officers will contact Effingham County Sheriff's Office dispatchers, who will then contact the on call Humane Deputy once the dispatchers deems that the call is in fact a qualified emergency. Requests for an on call Humane Deputy must be requested by a Sheriff's Office dispatcher.
 1. Officer must provide nature for the callout, location, and what service is being requested to dispatcher.
 2. Humane Enforcement Deputies may be contacted after hours only after the Officer has confirmed one of the following emergency situations:
 - a. An animal's owner has been arrested, hospitalized, or is deceased, and there is no one on scene to care for the animal, nor is a caregiver able to arrive in a reasonable amount of time to take responsibility of the animal.
 - b. An aggressive animal that is actively attempting to harm a person(s) by chasing, growling, and/or biting, and with raised hair along back.

- i. If an aggressive animal cannot be contained, the on-call Humane Enforcement Deputy may, at their discretion, choose to use a trap as an alternative method;
 - ii. A dog simply barking is not deemed as aggressive
- c. Domesticated animal with life threatening injuries that requires immediate veterinary assistance and when the owner is unknown or cannot be reasonably located;
- d. Animal bite cases involving a human victim where quarantine at the Animal Shelter is required (e.g., the owner is unknown, or the stray animal is contained and its location is known). Each situation will be evaluated by the on-call Humane Enforcement Deputy, who will determine whether immediate pickup is necessary.
- e. Humane Deputies will not respond to any animal transport call when emergency kennels (2) are unavailable at the Animal Shelter.

2. Responsibilities of City Officers

3. Deputy/Officer requesting assistance will standby for Humane Enforcement's response and remain on scene until the issue has been resolved. Unless an agreement was made beforehand, Humane Enforcement Deputies will not respond if the originating Deputy/Officer is not willing or able to remain on the scene.

4. If requesting an animal transport for any city ordinance or state law violation, the requesting officer must complete incident report and complete the appropriate charges (citation/warrant).

D. Animal Shelter/Resources available to city agencies

- 3. A spare key to the Animal Shelter gate which accesses the outdoor emergency kennels is kept in the Effingham Sheriff's Office Dispatch Center.
 - a. The emergency kennels are utilized by all agencies within Effingham County. Stray/non aggressive animals should not be placed in these kennels.
 - b. If an emergency kennel is utilized after hours, Sheriff's Office dispatch must advise the on call Humane Deputy via email.

- 4. There are four microchipping stations set up in Effingham County that are free to citizens and law enforcement upon locating an animal. Stations are available 24/7 and are in the parking lot of each location listed below:

- i. Fire Station 9 located at 737 Roebling Road in Faulkville
- ii. Fire Station 13 located at 91 Springfield Avenue in Guyton
- iii. Fire Station 12 located at 1171 Ga Highway 119 N in Springfield
- iv. Fire Station 16 located at 109 Goshen Commercial Park in Rincon

2. Injured animals may be transported after hours to:

Savannah Emergency Vet (24/7)
335 Stephenson Avenue Savannah, Ga
912-355-6113

- a. There is an Effingham County Animal Shelter account that may be used for emergency situations
 - 1. Animal struck by vehicle
 - 2. Sick/injured animal needing immediate veterinary attention
- b. If Shelter account is used, please notify Sheriff's Office dispatcher to relay the information to Humane Supervisor who will then relay the information to animal shelter staff.
 - 1. Provide Humane with CAD card with call details
 - 1. Location
 - 2. Case number
 - 3. Nature of the call
 - 2. Description of animal or photo if applicable