

5.6 Armed Animal Control Officer

I. POLICY

It is the policy to implement the use of an armed Animal Control Officer that has been duly appointed to the Johnstown Police Department. He/she must have one year experience working as a police officer or deputy sheriff that was certified through the Municipal Police Officer's Education and Training Commission. He/she will be trained alongside the duly sworn officers to the use of force and weapon safety of departmental issued firearms. This policy will follow the general order outlined in Chapter 5 of the Pennsylvania Crimes Code, weapon proficiency and qualification of personnel, medical aid after the use of force and reporting procedures for the use of force.

II. PURPOSE

To ensure the safety of all person's regardless of race, color, sex, religious creed, sexual orientation, age, national origin, ancestry, handicap or disability. It is to also ensure the safety of the Animal Control Officer that potentially is in harm's way upon responding to calls.

III. DEFINITIONS

1. ABANDON: To forsake entirely or to neglect or refuse to provide or perform the legal obligations for the care and support of an animal by its owner or his agent.
2. ABANDONMENT: Relinquishment of all rights and claims to an animal by its owner.
3. ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER: Any person appointed to carry out the duties of dog control.
4. ATTACK: The deliberate action of a dog, whether or not in response to a command by its owner, to bite, to seize with its teeth or to pursue any human or domestic animal.
5. CAT: The genus and species known as Felis Catus.
6. DANGEROUS DOG: A dog determined to be a dangerous dog under Section 502-A of the Pennsylvania Dog Law Act.
7. DOG: The genus and species known as Canis Familiaris.

5.6 continued

8. DOG CONTROL: The apprehending, holding and disposing of stray or unwanted dogs. Dog control may be performed by Humane Society Police Officers, Police Officers, State Dog Wardens or Animal Control Officers.

9. DOMESTIC ANIMAL: Any equine animal or bovine animal, sheep, goat, pig, poultry, bird, fowl, confined hares, rabbits and mink, or any wild or semiwild animal maintained in captivity.

10. OWNER: When applied to the proprietorship of a dog, includes every person having a right to property in such dog, and every person who keeps or harbors such dog or has it in his care, and every person who permits such dog to remain on or about premises occupied by him.

11. PROPER ENCLOSURE OF A DANGEROUS DOG: The secure confinement of a dangerous dog either indoors or in a securely enclosed and locked pen or structure, suitable to prevent the entry of young children and designed to prevent the animal from escaping. Such pen or structure shall have secure sides and a secure top and shall also provide protection from the elements for the dog. If the pen or structure has no bottom secured to the sides, the sides must be embedded at least two feet into the ground.

12. PUBLIC PLACE: A place in the Commonwealth to which the general public has a right to resort. A public place need not be a place devoted solely to use by the public, but may be a place which is visited by many persons on a regular basis and is usually accessible to the neighboring public. A public place shall also include television and radio media.

13. SERVICE DOG: Any dog which has been trained as a guide dog, signal dog or has been trained to work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including, but not limited to guiding individuals with impaired vision, alerting individuals with impaired hearing to intruders or sounds, pulling a wheelchair or fetching dropped items.

14. SEVERE INJURY: Any physical injury that results in broken bones or disfiguring lacerations requiring multiple sutures or cosmetic surgery.

IV. PROCEDURES

A. Duties

1. Enforce all animal related laws in the State of Pennsylvania under the Dog Law Act of 1982 – 255 and Amendments such as Act of 1996 #151.
 - a. report to the State Dog Warden when warranted under the act
2. Enforce all animal related ordinances in the City of Johnstown

5.6 continued

3. Under general supervision, perform varied routine tasks involving investigation animal cruelty and abuse.
4. Make arrests, issue warnings and citations for animal state and local ordinance violations.
5. Maintain records and prepare reports.
6. Perform all duties of an Animal Control Officer

Effective:

Date: September 17, 2015

By Order Of:

Craig R. Foust
Chief of Police