

Police Department

LOB #210:

ANIMAL CONTROL

Purpose

The Animal Control Division is committed to providing excellent services and resources for animals and the community, enhancing citizen knowledge of animal welfare and ensuring citizen safety. To accomplish its mission and objectives the Animal Control Division works in coordination with the Animal Shelter. The operational components of the wildlife management programs are also a part of the Animal Control Division.

Description

A Police Captain serves as the Commander for the Animal Services Division. Animal Control Services are provided by a team of sworn Animal Control Officers, civilian administrative personnel, and a wildlife biologist. Animal Control services are provided seven days a week, three hundred and sixty five days a year from 6:00 A.M. to 12:30 A.M. An Animal Control Supervisor and an Animal Control Officer are on call to respond to emergency animal cases between the hours of 12:30 A.M. and 6:00 A.M. Community outreach activities occur seven days a week.

Benefits

Animal Control Officers have the primary responsibility for the enforcement of the laws and ordinances of the Commonwealth of Virginia and the County of Fairfax as they pertain to animal violations; Chapter 6 of the Fairfax County Code; the Virginia Game and Fish Laws and Regulations; and other criminal offenses which occur in the officers' presence while enforcing these laws. Animal Control Officers are responsible for the enforcement of animal licensing and rabies inoculations laws. Animal Control Officers deal with domestic animal control, to humanely capture and impound animals that pose a threat to the public safety, health or well-being of County citizens and to assist animals that are injured, sick or in distress. Animal Control Officers are the primary persons authorized to investigate domestic animal bite cases and quarantine such animals.

The Animal Control Officers are responsible for coordinating with the Fairfax County Health Department on all such cases. They are also responsible for educating the public with regard to all animal issues and ensuring for the safety of all animals located within Fairfax County. Additionally, the Animal Control Officers handle most of the wildlife/citizen interactions. Wildlife incidents include the trapping, locating, euthanizing, and testing of wildlife which has come in contact with citizens and/or domestic animals. This includes the coordinating of all Rabies Vector incidents with the Fairfax County Health Department.

The Wildlife Biologist is responsible for the organizing, maintaining, and coordinating of the County's Deer Management and Canada Geese Programs. Additionally, the Wildlife Biologist is responsible for educating and/or coordinating the education of the public on all wildlife issues and serves as the main point of contact for the Board of Supervisors on all wildlife issues, and coordinates such activities with federal and state authorities.

Mandates

This LOB is state mandated. Enforcement of the Virginia Comprehensive Animal Laws, the Code of Virginia, and the Fairfax County Code as they pertain to animal violations.

Police Department

Trends and Challenges

An increasing challenge will be to raise citizen awareness with regard to sharing space with wildlife and to provide supportive programs.

Human population increases result in corresponding increases in the pet population and require increased resources for the provision of services.

As population density increases, the demographics of companion pets will also change resulting in the need for services for a wider variety of pets, presenting new challenges for sheltering and caretaking.

Calls for service, bite reports, and wildlife specific incidents have been increasing yearly. However, Animal Control staffing has not increased to handle this influx of investigations and citizen requests for service.

A bond referendum for the construction of a new South County Police Station/Animal Shelter was approved in November 2015. This will require the need to hire more Animal Control Officers to fully staff the facility and provide additional animal services to the citizens of Fairfax County.

Newly passed legislation regarding the tethering of animals will require education and enforcement of this issue by Animal Control Officers.

Resources

Category	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Adopted
LOB #210: Animal Control			
FUNDING			
<u>Expenditures:</u>			
Compensation	\$2,978,955	\$3,017,320	\$3,284,390
Operating Expenses	47,285	63,542	23,780
Capital Equipment	5,900	39,198	0
Total Expenditures	\$3,032,140	\$3,120,060	\$3,308,170
General Fund Revenue	\$2,260	\$2,900	\$1,900
Net Cost/(Savings) to General Fund	\$3,029,880	\$3,117,160	\$3,306,270
POSITIONS			
Authorized Positions/Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)			
<u>Positions:</u>			
Regular	34 / 34	32 / 32	34 / 34
Total Positions	34 / 34	32 / 32	34 / 34

Police Department

Metrics

Metric Indicator	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Estimate	FY 2017 Estimate
Animal Impoundments	1,183	1,176	1,200	1,200	1,200
Animal Bites	1,645	1,699	1,700	1,700	1,700
Biting Animal not Located	69	67	60	50	50
Sick/Injured Domestic Animal	390	372	400	400	400
Sick/Injured Wildlife	3,354	3,132	3,300	3,300	3,300
Human/Welfare Cases	790	832	900	900	900
Human Charges	51	46	50	50	50
Bite vs. Quarantine Test	96%	96%	95%	96%	96%
Charges on Humane Cases	6.5%	5.5%	4.9%	5.6%	5.6%

Animal Control continues efforts to ensure that Fairfax County residents have the education required to share space with wildlife in an effort to reduce the number of negative human interactions with wildlife.