


Subject: <b>Kinston Police Department</b>	Document #:		Effective Date:	Page:
<b>Animal Control Officer</b>	<b>900 – 3</b>		<b>07-01-2019</b>	<b>1 of 2</b>
Approval: <b>Chief of Police</b>	Manual: <b>Policy and Procedure</b>			

## I. PURPOSE

The purpose of the policy is to establish Department policy governing the Animal Control Officer.

## II. DEFINITIONS

- A. Animal Control Officer: The Animal Control Officer is a sworn officer or civilian personnel that have authority to use and maintain weapons and firearms deemed necessary and authorized by the Department to perform his/her duties.

## III. POLICY

- A. The safety of the Animal Control Officer as well as the citizens of Kinston is of paramount concern with the Department. Therefore a means of protection for humans as well as humane destruction of animals suspected of rabies is necessary. To accomplish this objective the Animal Control Officer shall have the ability to carry and use various weapons in the course of his/her duties.
- B. The following is a list of firearms and weapons that are authorized for use by the Animal Control Officer: Department Service Weapon, Tranquilizing Pistol, and Shotgun.
- C. The use of firearms shall **not be authorized** merely to prevent the escape of an animal. However, exceptions may include cases where capture by trapping, tranquilizing or other means of eliminating/solving the problem of an imminent threat to citizens of a dangerous animal or the animal is suspected of rabies, the Animal Control Officer or any sworn officer may use his/her firearm to dispatch the animal.
- D. It is the responsibility of the Animal Control Officer to maintain his/her discipline at all times in the use and maintenance of all weapons authorized by the Department.
- E. Prior to discharge of any weapon, officers will assess his/her target and determine its proximity to any human or private property. No weapon shall be used in any capacity which minimizes the safety of citizens or inflicts damage to private property.
- F. Weapons may be used by officers in the following situations: The humane disposal of suspected rabid animals, euthanization of animals/wildlife in obvious distress when all other humane alternatives have been exhausted, protection of citizens and the officer.
- G. The Animal Control Officer shall receive annual training on the Department's Use of Force Policy, Animal Control Officer Policy, and qualify with all weapons assigned to him/her for his/her use. This training shall be conducted by a certified departmental firearms instructor. The qualification course fired by the Animal Control Officer and all other training attended shall be recorded with the Training Officer.

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- If the Animal Control Officer fails to qualify with his/her firearm, the non-qualification procedure outlined by the Department shall be followed.
- H. All weapons and ammunition issued to the Animal Control Officer shall be kept secure in the Animal Control Vehicle. Weapons and ammunition shall be subject to inventory and inspection by any department supervisor at any time. Weapons stored in the Animal Control Vehicle shall be stored and secured out of plain view of any citizen.
  - I. It is the responsibility of the Animal Control Officer to ensure that no weapon is left unattended at any time. Weapons must be carried by the Animal Control Officer or appropriately stored and secured in the Animal Control Vehicle. When weapons are left unattended in the Animal Control Vehicle, the vehicle must be locked and the weapons stored out of sight at all times.
  - J. No weapon will have a round chambered at any time, except for the Animal Control Officer's assigned service weapon. Weapons shall not be stored with rounds chambered in the weapon.
  - K. If an Animal Control Officer discharges a weapon he/she shall follow the Use of Force Policy outlined by the Department.