

## PURPOSE:

To establish minimum duties for the Lee County Sheriff's Office animal control unit for law enforcement services.

## DEFINITIONS:

**Animals:** For the purposes of this policy and procedure, the term '**ANIMAL**' shall include only domestic animals such as a dog or cat and exclude any cow, ox, horse, donkey, mule, sheep, goat, chicken, turkey, quail, or similar farm animal or any wild animal such as fox, raccoon, deer, and so forth.

**Animal Control Officer:** The Sheriff of Lee County, any lawful Deputy of the said Sheriff, and any other person designated by the Sheriff of Lee County or the county administration for Lee County to carry out and enforce the provisions of this policy.

**Animal Shelter:** Any premises designated by the county governing body for the purpose of impounding, caring for or destroying dogs and cats held under authority of this policy.

**Dogs:** Any member of the canine family or more of age, excluding foxes.

**Known or Knowingly:** For purposes of this policy, the terms 'known' and 'knowingly' shall include information from previous occurrences of complaints which are known or should have been known and information generally known or readily available about and characteristic of the particular breed of animal in question.

**Running at Large:** A dog shall be deemed to be 'running at large' unless it is under restraint.

**Under Restraint:** A dog shall be deemed to be 'under restraint' if on the premises of the owner or keeper or if accompanied by its owner or keeper and under physical control of the owner or keeper by means of a leash or other similar restraining device, or under the active control of the owner or trainer while hunting or being trained and while on property of the owner or with the property owner's permission. **(Only Apply to City Jurisdiction)**

**Vicious Dog:** Any dog evidencing an abnormal inclination to attack persons or animals without provocation.

This policy shall incorporate the Lee County "**ANIMALS AND FOWL**". RABIES CONTROL, 4-36--4-44, plus STATE LAWS regulating animal control including but not limited to Sec. 47, Chapter 3 of the South Carolina Code of Laws 1996 as amended.

This Directive consists of the following numbered sections:

- 200.16.1 Animal Shelter**
- 200.16.2 Strays or Captured Animals on Private Property**
- 200.16.3 Rabies Control**
- 200.16.4 Snakes**
- 200.16.5 Cats**
- 200.16.6 Euthanasia**
- 200.16.7 Rifles**
- 200.16.8 Procedure for Capturing**

**200.16.1 ANIMAL SHELTER (Under the Supervision of the County Administrator)**

- A. The animal shelter operational hours will be 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, and Thursday and Friday 3:00p.m.-6:00p.m, closed on Saturday and Sunday. Officers will work Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. with one officer being on an emergency callback status each night and on weekends. Definition for emergencies after hours will be considered as a sudden, unexpected occurrence demanding immediate action. An example of an emergency is: if the animal is injured to the extent it needs immediate attention or an animal that is vicious and any other situation where the dog poses a real threat to human life.
- B. Calls for stray dogs or animals that are tied or otherwise captured will wait for the next business day.
- C. **Persons who call stating that they have a dog tied or penned should be advised that they will need to feed and water the animal until it is picked-up. Persons who fail to feed and water a tied or penned animal could be charged with Section 47-1-40, Cruelty to Animals in General.**

## Lee County Animal Shelter Fees for Services

The Lee County Animal Shelter will assess the following fees for services that are rendered. These are used to offset the cost of operating this facility and for providing care to animals while under the care of the county.

### Reclaiming Fee

If an animal is picked up as a stray, there will be a \$40 reclaiming charge plus an additional \$10 per day for each animal held under the county's care. Additionally, any cost associated with caring for the animal if the animal is treated for illness or is given any required vaccinations will be added to these standing fees. All fees must be paid at the time the animal is claimed from the shelter.

**Note-**If an animal is picked up as a stray has a rabies tag and the owner picks up the animal within 24 hours of being notified, the fees listed above will be waived the first time the animal is picked up. If the animal is picked up again, the owner will be assessed all applicable fees.

### Adoption Fees

The animal shelter charges a \$50 adoption fee for dogs adopted from the shelter. Cats may be adopted at no charge. Any animal adopted from the shelter must be spayed or neutered within (1) one month of adoption.

### Quarantining/Emergency Boarding of Animals-

The Lee County Animal Shelter does not board animals for the public on a routine basis. However, if an animal must be quarantined for a health emergency and the owner cannot properly quarantine the animal, the county will board the animal for a fee of \$10 per day which must be paid up front. If the owner cannot afford the fee, the animal must be signed over to the shelter to be dealt with at the county discretion.

If an individual is incarcerated and the county must take possession of a pet during the period of incarceration, the owner will be charged at a flat rate of \$15 per animal plus an additional \$10 per day for boarding of the animal.

### Contact Information for Lee County Animal Shelter

**Director-Doris Winstead**

Lee County Animal Shelter  
101 Animal Shelter Lane  
Bishopville, SC 29010  
Office Phone-(803) 428-2077 or Emergency Number (803) 428-7536

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**Date: July 1, 2011**

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**ANIMAL CONTROL UNIT**

**200.16.2 STRAYS OR CAPTURED ANIMALS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY**

- A. It shall be the policy of the Lee County Sheriff's Office not to go on rental property such as mobile home parks and apartment complexes to capture animals.
- B. It will be the responsibility of the owner/manager to capture stray animals on the rental property.
- C. The owner/manager will be advised that he/she will have the animal in custody before calling animal control.
- D. The owner/manager will also be advised that if strays are caught during non-business hours, he/she will have to feed and water the animal until the next business day. This will include weekends.
- E. Assistance in capturing animals, such as the use of traps, etc. will be given to owner/managers.

**200.16.3 RABIES CONTROL**

- A. It shall be the duty of every physician or other practitioner to report to the county public Health Department or authorized agent the names and addresses of persons treated for bites inflicted by animals together with such information as will be helpful in rabies control. Any person bitten by an animal must report the bite to the county Health Department within twenty-four (24) hours of the incident.

- B. The owner or keeper of an animal that bites an individual must keep the animal quarantined for **ten (10) days** after the incident. Proof of inoculation must be shown or a violation has occurred. If the owner/keeper can not quarantine the animal and can not prove that the animal was inoculated, the owner will have to take the animal to the Lee County Animal Shelter and relinquish the animal or pay for the animal to be quarantined at the shelter. If the owner/keeper gives up his/her ownership of the animal, then the owner/keeper will be required to pay \$30.00 to have the head of the animal shipped for rabies testing.
- C. If an animal is a stray or no ownership can be determined and the animal bites an individual, the animal will be captured as soon as possible and its head will be shipped for testing. However, if the animal seems to be manicured or appearance of the animal would make a reasonable person believe that the animal belongs to someone, then the animal will be kept at the animal shelter for three days, weekends excluded, before shipping the head.
- D. It will only be the responsibility of the Lee County animal control officer to apprehend domestic animals. All other animals will be the sole responsibility of the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources. The Lee County animal control officers will assist the Department of Natural Resources when needed.
- E. Lee County rabies control is the responsibility of the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC). The Lee County animal control officers will assist them in the apprehension and quarantine of animals suspected of rabies. The quarantine of such animals will be based on occupancy of the shelter at the time of the incident. Any and all animal bites will take precedence over other calls for service.

#### 200.16.4    **SNAKES**

- A. The Lee County Animal Control Officer will assist a citizen in regards to snakes with the following criteria:
  - 1. The snake is in the residence

2. The snake is in close proximity to the residence and there might be a danger to the residency
3. The discretion of the animal control officer

### **200.16.5 CATS**

- A. The same policy regarding dogs will apply to cats.
- B. The residence owner can take the cat to the SPCA or relocate it outside of Lee County or to a responsible owner.
- C. Stray cats will be handled the same as stray dogs at the animal shelter.

### **200.16.6 EUTHANASIA (Discretion of Animal Shelter Director)**

- A. The county animal shelter director or his/her assistants will conduct all euthanasia.
- B. Any stray animal that was apprehended and not to be adoptable will be euthanized after five (5) days if not claimed.
- C. Any identifiable animal that is not picked up after ten (10) days after the owner/keeper was notified, will be euthanised.

### **200.16.7 RIFLES**

Each animal control officer is equipped with a .22 caliber rifle to use only in the following circumstances:

- A. After all other means of capture has failed
- B. Wild, stray or vicious animals
- C. The use would not endanger the life or property of others

### **200.16.8 PROCEDURE FOR CAPTURING**

Once a complaint has been filed with the animal control unit, the officer assigned to the call will respond to determine the means to apprehend the animal. If the complainant has the animal restrained, the officer will transport the animal to the animal shelter. If the animal is not restrained, the officer will take what actions he deems to be the best solution to the problem. The officer will either leave a trap to try and apprehend the animal or use his tranquilizer weapon. The tranquilizer dart must hit the animal and the animal control officer must watch the animal until it becomes inactive and to make sure the dart doesn't fall off the animal. This procedure is usually done only in a confined area due to the length of time it takes for the tranquilizer to work. If a trap is left, it will be the owner of the property who will be responsible for the trap. A trap will only be left at a residence for a week at a time due to the numerous calls for traps. If the tranquilizer or the trap doesn't apprehend the animal, and there is no other way to capture the animal and/or the animal is vicious, the animal control officer has the authority to use deadly force on the animal.