

<p>POLICY &amp; PROCEDURE</p> <p>Reference Guide</p> <p>Animal Control Policy 1.28 &amp; Town By Law</p>	<p>ISSUE</p> <p>DATE: 02/04/2016</p>
	<p>EFFECTIVE</p> <p>DATE: 02/04/2016</p>
<p>MASSACHUSETTS POLICE ACCREDITATION STANDARDS</p>	<p>REVISION</p> <p>DATE:</p>

This document merely highlights the responsibilities of the Police and Animal control Officer as outlined in the Animal Control Officer Policy issued on 02/04/2016. The ACO, Police and Dispatch shall read the policy and fully understand the content.

## LUNENBURG TOWN BY LAW ARTICLE IX SECTION 1-A DOG RESTRAINT

*Lunenburg Town By Law Article IX Section 1-A DOG RESTRAINT: No owner or keeper of any dog shall permit such dog, whether licensed or unlicensed to become a public nuisance within the town at any time. It shall be the duty of the Dog Officer to apprehend any dog which he/she has reason to believe to be a public nuisance and to impound such dog in a suitable place and to order the owner thereof to restrain such dog.*

Definitions:

- 1) Dog... All animals of canine species, both male and female.
- 2) Owner... Any person or persons, firm, association or corporation owning, keeping or harboring a dog as herein defined.
- 3) Public Nuisance...**

**a) Any dog shall be deemed a public nuisance when attacking persons or domestic animals while such dog is on property other than that of the dog owner:**

- b) When destroying property;**
- c) When on a public school grounds and not under restraint;**
- d) When it persistently chases moving vehicles**
- e) When it persistently and continuously barks or howls;**
- f) When it is permitted to run at large and unrestrained on property other than its owners; ( This includes public ways)**
- g) Any unspayed female dog in season shall be deemed a public nuisance when not confined indoors or housed in a veterinary hospital or registered kennel.**

### **ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER SHALL RESPOND TO AND OR:**

- 1. Investigate any vicious or nuisance animal complaints and:**
  - a) Animal abandonment;
  - b) Lost animals, (Stray Animals are to be considered lost);
  - c) Sick and injured wild animals threatening the safety of the public, (The Police or ACO will determine the threat level posed by the animal)
  - d) Dogs and cats at large.
- 2. Assist the public with locating lost dogs and cats;**
- 3. Investigate sick, injured, and deceased wild animals.**
- 4. Investigate animal neglect and abuse cases.**
- 5. Transport of injured stray domestic animals to an emergency facility.**

### **SWORN MEMBER RESPONSIBILITY**

- 1. Investigate complaints of animal cruelty;**
- 2. Assist the ACO when necessary, and respond to any animal related calls for service when the ACO is off duty or not immediately available;**
- 3. When an ACO is not on duty, sworn members may be responsible for responding to and completing any animal related call for**

**service, including but not limited to: enforcement of local or state laws, writing incident reports and/or impounding animals.**

**EXAMPLES OF WHEN SWORN MEMBERS MAY NEED TO CONSIDER ACTING IMMEDIATELY IF NO ACO IS AVAILABLE TO RESPOND:**

- a) When there is a threat to public safety;**
- b) When an animal has bitten someone, (*members should take measures to confine the animal to prevent further injury*);**
- c) When an animal is a traffic hazard;**
- d) When the owner/handler has been arrested and there is no other alternative placement for the animal;**
- e) When the animal is gravely disabled;**
- f) When an animal has been abused.**

**PROCEDURE DISPATCHER/CALLTAKER**

**Dispatcher/Call taker shall dispatch the ACO, and if not available, the Police for all animal related calls that fall within the scope of the Animal Control Policy.**

**Dispatchers/Call takers shall:**

- 1) Acquire a description of the stray dog;
- 2) Identify the Complainant/caller;
- 3) Ascertain the dog's physical condition and behavior;
- 4) Determine if the complainant/caller has ever seen the dog before;
- 5) Determine if the complainant/caller has possession of the dog.
- 6) Dispatch shall generate a **CAD and an Incident number.**