

DAYTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
GENERAL ORDER
FIREARMS DISCHARGES
INVOLVING ANIMALS



RICHARD S. BIEHL – DIRECTOR AND CHIEF OF POLICE

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POLICY STATEMENT

It is the policy of the Dayton Police Department to exhaust every reasonable means before using firearms to dispose of vicious dogs, dangerous dogs, or wild and potentially dangerous animals. Use of the firearm should always involve consideration for the safety of bystanders.

I. REGULATIONS

Officers may discharge firearms to kill a **dangerous animal** or one so badly injured that humanity requires its removal from further suffering.

II. ON-DUTY OFFICER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Whenever an on-duty officer discharges a firearm at an animal, or becomes aware of allegations that they have discharged a firearm under such circumstances, they must immediately notify an on-duty supervisor. In the event that a supervisory officer is involved in a use of firearms incident, a supervisor of higher rank will be notified of the incident.
- B. In addition to any other reports submitted relating to the incident, each officer involved in the firearms discharge incident will complete a Special Report or other statement as directed by a supervisor or Professional Standards. That report will contain all information pertinent to the incident, including the names of all known witnesses to the incident. The report will be completed as soon as possible and not later than completion of the officer's tour of duty.
- C. Any on-duty officer who witnesses or has knowledge of a discharge of firearms by another officer or becomes aware of allegations of discharge of firearms by another officer will ensure that an on-duty supervisor is aware of the incident.

III. OFF-DUTY OFFICERS' RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Whenever an off-duty officer discharges a firearm at an animal, or has knowledge of or becomes aware of allegations of discharge of firearms against them under those circumstances, they must notify the Regional Dispatch Center (RDC) of the incident as soon as possible. If the incident occurred outside the corporate limits of the City of Dayton, the officer involved will ensure the appropriate local police jurisdiction is notified and requested to respond to the scene.
 1. If the incident occurred in the City of Dayton, an appropriate supervisor, as specified in Section II. (A.) of this policy will be notified by the RDC supervisor and will respond to the scene to investigate the incident.
 2. If the incident occurred outside the corporate limits of the City of Dayton, the officer's Division Commander will be contacted immediately. After consideration of the circumstances, the Division Commander may request that an on-duty supervisor be dispatched to the scene to initiate the investigation.
- B. The involved officer(s) will completely and accurately report the details of the incident to the investigating supervisor.
- C. The officer should request that copies of any reports completed by the local police agency be forwarded to the investigating supervisor.



- D. The officer(s) involved in the incident will complete a Special Report as soon as possible and not more than 24 hours after the incident occurred. In the event the officer will be out of the city for a period of time on pre-approved leave or business travel, the report will be submitted within 24 hours of the officer's return to the city.

IV. INVESTIGATION BY SUPERVISOR OR OTHER COMMAND OFFICER

- A. Professional Standards should **not** be contacted unless the circumstances of the shooting indicate that the officer did not fire their weapon in a safe manner (lack of proper backdrop or innocent bystanders in the line of fire).
1. If the discharge involving the animal is consistent with policies and procedures, the supervisor's investigation will require that a brief *BlueTeam Internal Investigation Incident Report* detailing the events (which must include any attached witness information and photographs of the animal).
 2. If the discharge is not consistent with policies and procedures, the supervisor will need to conduct a complete Administrative Investigation.