

ANIMAL CONTROL BITE POLICY

Adopted 1/27/04

1. PURPOSE

Because of the vital nature of animal bite cases to public health, this policy establishes procedures to be followed in an animal bite case. Another purpose of the policy is to provide for the needed specific coordination of activities required by the Animal Control Officer, Animal Owner, Health Department, and State of Michigan.

2. POLICY

2.1 **Step 1** Involves reporting the animal bite report to county animal control: All animal bites are to be reported to the Animal Control Officer. Animal bite cases are to be reported by all entities including the public, hospitals, sheriff, other law enforcement agencies, veterinarians, public health department, etc. If a case is not reported in a timely manner to the County Animal Control Officer, the County assumes no responsibility.

2.2 **Step 2** Involves the Animal Control Officer (or assistants) going to the site of the animal bite. The Animal Control Officer goes to the site of the animal bite to complete appropriate bite forms and explain procedures to both the party that has been bitten and to the animal owner if possible. The animal owner is notified they have a responsibility (liability) in that their dog has bitten someone. The animal owner is notified by the Animal Control Officer that the animal shall be quarantined for a period of time (at least 10 days). The Animal Control Officer explains that it is the owner's responsibility if a problem with animal's health develops. (Symptoms are explained.) If in the judgment of the Animal Control Officer, the animal owner is not reliable to watch or quarantine the animal for 10 days, the Animal Control Officer will quarantine the animal at the Animal Shelter and charge the owner accordingly. Whenever possible, the Animal Control Officer (or assistants) will make every effort to personally go out and follow up and check to see that the animal is alive and healthy at the end of the quarantine period. If a personal check is not possible, the other methods of inquiry related to the animal's health will be made with the dog owner. All appropriate information is completed on the "animal bite report form".

2.3 **Step 3** Involves the County Health Department being notified of bite cases. As soon as possible, the Animal Control Officer (or assistants) will deliver a copy of the "animal bite report form" to the appropriate official at the County Health Department. The Animal Control Officer will make a copy of the form delivered with the date and time and file

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appropriately. The Animal Control Officer (or assistants) shall be available to consult with the Health Department throughout each bite case. And, the Health Department will be available to assist the Animal Control Officer as necessary. The Animal Control Officer (or assistants) shall report to the appropriate person at the County Health Department when the animal's quarantine period has expired.

- 2.4 **Step 4** Involves action to be taken if problems with the animal's health develop. Animal owners are to immediately notify the Animal Control Officer if problems with the animal's health develop. In the event any problems with the quarantined animal develop, the appropriate personnel at the County Health Department are to be immediately notified. Should the Animal Control Officer or Health Department have questions related to the animal's health, the Animal Control Officer will obtain input from the veterinarian and/or exam of the animals or other veterinarian.