	Administrative General Order	1.09 Animal Control Officer Authority and Training	PAGE 1 OF 2
	SUBJECT		EFFECTIVE DATE
	Virginia Beach Police Department General Order Chapter 1 - Organizational Command		04/28/2021
	DISTRIBUTION		ORIGINATOR/REVIEW
ALL		CALEA: 1.2.1, 1.3.12, 4.3.4	Chief's Staff
BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE POLICE CHIEF: PWN			

Purpose

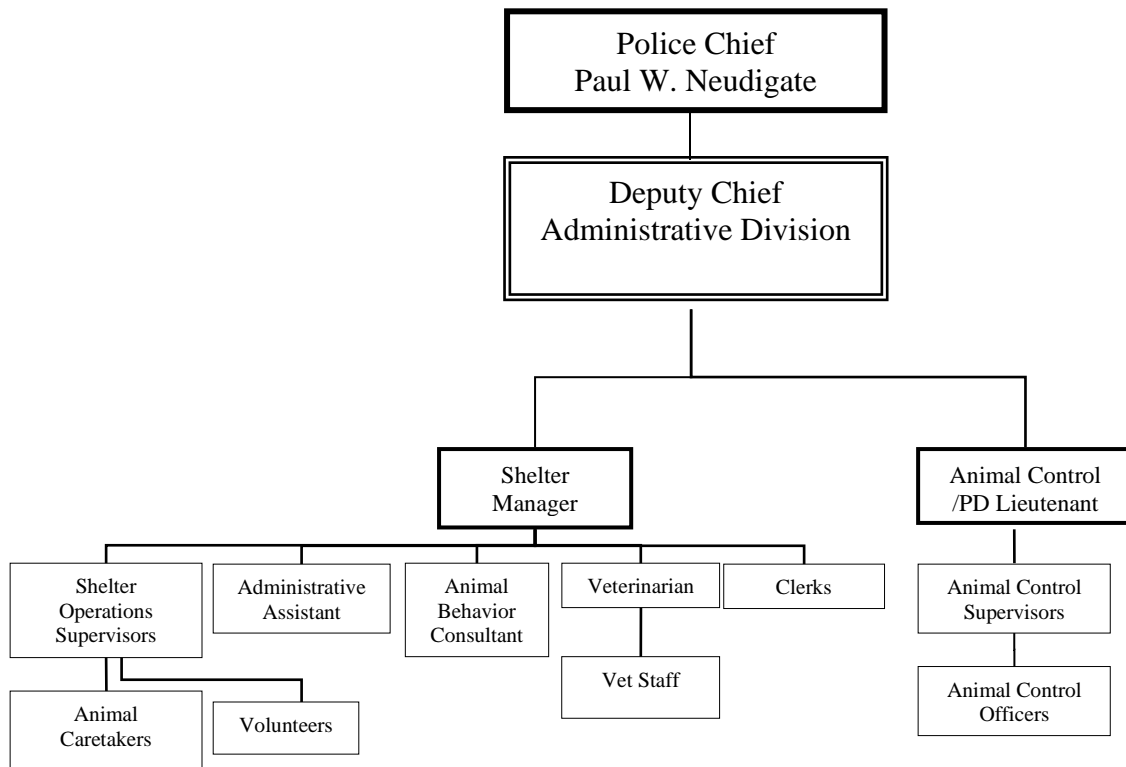
To define the authority and training standards for Animal Control Officers.

Definition

Animal Control Officer - Animal Control Officers are appointed as provided in § 3.2-6555 of the Code of Virginia.

Command Structure

The Animal Control Unit is under the command of Administrative Division under the Commanding Officer of Animal Control as depicted in the organizational chart below.



Authority of Animal Control Officers (CALEA 1.2.1)

As provided by § 3.2-6555 of the Code of Virginia, Animal Control Officers shall have the power to enforce all ordinances enacted pursuant to this Code and all laws and city ordinances for the protection of domestic animals. Animal Control Officers have the authority to issue a misdemeanor summons for violations of statutes or city ordinances in accordance with § 19.2-74 and § 19.2-81 of the Virginia State Code and to apply to a Magistrate for a felony warrant or search warrant. The service of both felony and search warrants will be performed by a Police Officer with the assistance of an Animal Control Officer.

Training of Animal Control Officers

Every Animal Control Officer appointed on or after July 1, 1998 and before July 1, 2017 shall complete a basic animal control course within two years of appointment. Every Animal Control Officer appointed on or after July 1, 2017 shall complete a basic animal control course within one year of appointment; and every three years, additional training approved by the State Veterinarian, 15 hours of which will include training in animal control and protection as provided by the Code of Virginia 3.2-6556.

Every three years, each Animal Control Officer will receive additional training approved by the state veterinarian, 15 hours of which will include training in animal control and protection. Animal Control Officers will attend Police Officer in-service training classes as determined by the Commanding Officer, Bureau of Animal Control. All Animal Control employees will be state certified prior to performing animal euthanasia.

Weapons (CALEA 1.3.12, 4.3.4)

Animal Control Officers are required to carry their department-issued weapons while on duty. Animal Control Officers are required to complete firearms training in accordance with the standards of the Virginia Beach Police Academy or equivalent academy with approval of the Commanding Officer of Personnel Development and Training. Additionally, Animal Control Officers are required to requalify with all issued weapons in accordance with re-qualification standards for Police officers established by Professional Development and Training and General Order 5.02 (Weapons.).

With the prior approval of the Commanding Officer of the Animal Control Unit, Animal Control Officers shall qualify with the department issued shotgun in accordance with qualifications established by PD&T. Only those Animal Control Officers who are approved and qualified may use the department issued shotgun to humanely dispose of dangerous or injured animals. Animal Control Officers will not carry Department issued weapons while off duty.