

POLICE DEPARTMENT HANOVER PARK, ILLINOIS



DIRECTIVE: 282-P

REFERENCE STANDARDS:

SUBJECT: Wildlife Removal

POLICY: It shall be the policy of the Hanover Park Police Department to assist residents and citizens with coyotes, feral cats and other wild animals by advising them of their responsibilities, referring them to another appropriate agency, or taking other action in urgent situations.

PURPOSE: To establish a procedure to be followed when dealing with feral cats and other wild animals.

I. Procedures

A. WILD ANIMALS - GENERAL

When a resident or other citizen requests assistance in dealing with a coyote, feral cat or other wild animal, police personnel will respond to the complaint according to the following guidelines:

1. Wild animals that do not pose a clear and immediate threat on private property are the responsibility of the property owner. Removal of wild animals from private property is the property owner's responsibility and such removal will be at the property owner's expense.
 - a. The Police Department will advise residents and/or callers that they may select a nuisance animal removal service of their choice by referring to the Yellow Pages of the telephone business directory listed under "wildlife removal services." Residents may also visit the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' website, (www.dnr.illinois.gov), which maintains a list, county by county, of contractors who hold permits for trapping from the IDNR.
 - b. In the event that the wild animal is determined to be a feral cat, the department member will also provide the citizen with information regarding the Managed Care of Feral Cats Ordinance.
 - c. In the event the wild animal is determined to be a coyote, residents should also be advised to consult the Village of Hanover Park's website which provides specific strategies for dealing with coyotes.

POLICE OPERATIONS MANUAL

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Police department members who may be called upon to respond to coyote nuisance complaints or sightings shall also become familiar with the information contained on the website in order to be able to provide immediate advice and assistance to residents and/or callers.

2. Police Department personnel do not handle complaints of nuisance wild animals unless there is a clear and immediate threat to public health, safety or welfare, such as a vicious wild animal or suspicion of rabies.
3. If a wild animal poses a clear and immediate threat to public health, safety or welfare, and all other practical options for removal have failed, the use of a wildlife removal service may be authorized by the on-duty supervisor at the expense of the department.
 - a. An Incident/Offense Report will be generated detailing the incident and the supervisor who authorized the wildlife removal service.
 - b. Notification will be made to the Deputy Chief of Support Services and copies of all paperwork related to the incident will be forwarded to him/her.

B. FERAL CATS

Management of feral cats will be in compliance with the Hanover Park Managed Care of Feral Cats Ordinance. When a resident or other citizen requests assistance in dealing with a feral cat, police personnel will respond to the complaint according to the following guidelines:

1. If a Code Enforcement Officer (CEO) is available, the complaint/call will be assigned to a CEO. If no CEO is available, another member of the department will be assigned to handle the complaint/call.
2. If the complaint/call is handled by other than a member of the Code Enforcement Unit and the feral cat poses no immediate threat, a detailed preliminary report will be prepared and forwarded to the Code Enforcement Supervisor, who will assign a CEO to handle the case.
3. The initially assigned department member will take reasonable steps to ascertain if :
 - a. the complainant has information pertaining to someone feeding or providing shelter for the feral cat(s) and
 - b. if the feral cat(s) have a distinguishing mark such as the left ear tipped, or other distinguishing mark or indication that it is a member of a managed feral cat colony and
 - c. any information provided to the department member regarding a feral cat colony caretaker or sponsor and
 - d. all above information will be included in the case report.

4. If the feral cat is determined to be a member of a managed feral cat colony: the assigned CEO will make necessary notifications to the Colony Sponsor and take the necessary steps to attempt to abate the nuisance as provided for in the ordinance.
5. If the assigned CEO, after making reasonable attempts to do so, is unable to determine that the feral cat is a member of a managed feral cat colony, the CEO will:
 - a. Notify the complainant of the property owner's authority to cause the feral cat to be humanely removed from the property, as provided for in the ordinance.
 - b. Document this conclusion and notification in the case report.
6. If the assigned CEO determines that someone is feeding or providing shelter to the feral cat(s) and is not a department approved feral cat colony caretaker, the CEO should take appropriate enforcement action to abate the violation and/or cite the violator.
7. Citizen inquiries regarding how to participate in the feral cat colony program should be directed to the Code Enforcement Supervisor or his designee.