



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

Freedom of Information Act Publication Scheme	
Protective Marking	Official
Publication Scheme Y/N	Yes
Title	Policy on Animals Coming to Police Notice
Version	2.0
Summary	This document outlines how the MPS will deal with all animals coming to police attention and requiring further police action.
(B)OCU or Unit, Directorate	Territorial Policing
Author	
Review Date	December 2023
Date Issued	17 th December 2019

Freedom of Information Publication Scheme					
Protective Marking:	OFFICIAL			Publication (Y/N):	Y
Title:	Policy on Animals Coming to Police Notice				
Summary:	This document outlines how the MPS will deal with all animals coming to police attention and requiring further police action.				
Branch / OCU:	Territorial Policing				
Date created:	17 th December 2019	Review date:	December 2023	Version:	2.0
Author:	PC 264NI Tracey Parker				

Application

When? This Policy applies with immediate effect.

Who? All police officers and police staff, including the extended police family and those working voluntarily or under contract to the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) or the Commissioner must be aware of, and are required to comply with, all relevant Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) policy and associated procedures.

This Policy applies in particular to officers and staff in the following roles:

- Supervisors
- Station Reception Officers
- Borough officers and staff
- Crime scene Managers
- Borough and Dept. Crime Managers
- Borough Intelligence Officers
- MetCC first contact and dispatch officers and staff.
- Safer Neighbourhood Team officers and Supervisors
- Dog Support Unit staff
- Status Dog Unit
- Borough Partnership Officers
- Response Team officers and staff
- Duty officers
- Senior Responsible Officers (SROs)
- Borough Operations Command Unit (B/OCU) Commanders
- Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Officers (GLTO's)

N.B. This list is not intended to be exhaustive.

What? This policy is designed to assist police officers and police staff in their encounters with all animals, such as:

- Animals used in the commission of crime
- Animals in possession of persons detained for any reason.
- Animals in possession of persons unable to care for them e.g. illness / death
- Stray animals
- Injured animals
- Dangerous dogs as defined by Section 1 of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 (as amended) - for example Pit Bull Terrier type dogs.
- Dogs dangerously out of control in a public place as defined by Section 3 of the 1991 Act
- Assistance Dogs / animals
- Animals straying on the public highway or situations when the animal is loose and is likely to stray owing to its presence on insecure land.
- This policy includes all animals coming to police attention and requiring further police action. It does not include animals that are encountered by police in a co-incidental manner whilst employed on other duties.

Policy Principles

Animals will only be seized or taken into police care if absolutely necessary. Where possible, the animal is to remain in situ under the care of a reasonable person.

Where animals are seized or taken into police care they will be kept for 21 days (14 days for Dogs) with emphasis on humane treatment.

This policy will give full consideration to victims of dog attacks and adhere to those Acts of Parliament that regulate dogs.

When dealing with stray horses requiring police attention:

- It is the responsibility of the BCU to respond to calls on their borough in relation to stray horses.
- The Mounted Branch On Call Inspector will provide advice in relation to all calls where police are required to deal with horses and will arrange for Mounted Branch to attend wherever possible.

- Horses will only be seized by police and retained by invoking the GREENYARD procedure if absolutely necessary. The GREENYARD is a specified contractor who provides the service of assisting police, collecting, and if necessary housing the stray animal. The GREENYARD is also able to euthanise the animal if the circumstances dictate.
- If seized, the animal(s) will be kept until restored to the owner, or if no owner is located, for the maximum period of time of 21 days (which falls in line with the Interference of Goods Act 1977) before ownership can be transferred to the GREENYARD.
- The BCU responding to the call is responsible for ALL subsequent charges made by the GREENYARD for transporting and housing the animal.
- Mounted Branch will assume responsibility for the investigation following the seizure of horses. If an owner is located, all attempts will be made to recover costs from the owner.
- Mounted Branch is responsible for securing the provision of GREENYARD services and ensuring the most cost effective service.

Purpose and Benefits

The aim of this policy is to set out how animals coming to police notice should be dealt with.

The benefits of this policy are:

- This policy will enable the MPS to provide a corporate approach to dealing with animals.
- Police will be able to deal effectively with animals that come to their notice.
- The public will be protected from dangerous animals brought to police notice, including from the danger of road traffic collisions resulting from an animal being found loose on the public highway. By assisting the Highways authorities in closing roadways, this will minimise how long officers spend at the roadside.
- Efficient expenditure of public money by ensuring the animals are held for the minimum amount of time necessary and by making the most suitable use of police time through increasing the amount of time officers are actively available to respond to other calls and visible to the public.
- Humane treatment for animals taken into care by police will be assured.

Health and Safety Impact Statement

This policy and associated toolkit have been developed with appropriate consultation with the MPS Safety and Health Risk Management Team to ensure that all significant Health and Safety risks have been quantified.

There are no additional significant health and safety risks associated with this policy that are not the subject of existing risk assessments and controls.

Associated Documents and Policies

- Animals coming to police notice
- Dogs coming to police Notice
- Stray Horses (Greenyard Procedure)
- DEFRA Guidance 2009
- DEFRA guidelines to Equine Welfare 2011
- ACPO Guidance 2009
- Animal Welfare Act 2006
- Dogs Act 1871
- Dangerous Dogs Act 1991
- Dangerous Dogs (Amendment) Act 1997
- Home Office Circular 80/1992
- Risk assessment TP/23 of 6th MAY 2004 "Working with animals"
- Highways Act 1980
- Interference of Goods Act 1997
- CO15 Guidance for Working on Roads

Notices to be Cancelled / Amended**Cancel**

- Item 2 of Notices 07/11 - 16 February 2011
- Item 1, Notices 38/13, 18 September 2013