



**2-105 DESTRUCTION/CAPTURE OF ANIMALS**

**Related SOP(s), Form(s), Other Resource(s), and Rescinded Special Order(s):**

A. Related SOP(s)

- 1-35 Crime Scene Specialists Unit (Formerly 5-8)
- 1-62 Internal Affairs Professional Standards (IAPS) Division (Formerly 2-05 and 7-1)
- 2-16 Reports (Formerly 1-05)

B. Form(s)

None

C. Other Resource(s)

City of Albuquerque Animal Welfare Department  
 New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF)  
 ROA 1994, § 9-2-1-4 Definitions  
 ROA 1994, § 9-17-3 Definitions

D. Rescinded Special Order(s)

None

**2-105-1 Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to provide Albuquerque Police Department (Department) sworn personnel with guidance when assisting New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF) personnel and City of Albuquerque Animal Welfare Department personnel when responding to incidents involving wild or dangerous animals.

**2-105-2 Policy**

It is the policy of the Department to assist NMDGF personnel and City Animal Welfare Department sworn personnel in the destruction and/or capture of wild or dangerous animals.

N/A

**2-105-3 Definitions**

A. Dangerous Dog

1. A dog that:

- a. Has, without provocation, caused serious injury, great bodily harm, or mortal injury to a person or companion animal; or
- b. Was previously designated as a potentially dangerous dog and subsequently:



- i. Causes injury to a person or companion animal that is less severe than a serious injury; or
- ii. Is observed by any person chasing or menacing a person or companion animal in an aggressive manner and without provocation.

2. A Department Police Service Dog is not considered a dangerous dog by definition, consistent with City Ordinance § 9-17-13.

**B. Wild Animal**

A species of animal that is exotic to humans and is unlawful to possess, consistent with City Ordinance § 9-2-1-4.

**7 2-105-4 Procedures**

**A. Destruction of Animals**

1. When an animal is mortally injured, the on-duty Field Services Bureau (FSB) supervisor may authorize the destruction of the animal.
  - a. Sworn personnel shall consult with NMDGF personnel or City Animal Welfare Department sworn personnel if time permits.
  - b. Where destruction of an animal is authorized and is lawfully justified, sworn personnel shall carry out the destruction as humanely as possible.
2. Whenever possible, if the destruction of the animal is needed, it shall be carried out by NMDGF personnel.
3. Sworn personnel may discharge their Department-issued firearm to destroy the animal, if a life-threatening situation or threat to public safety exists or if the animal is mortally injured and it is necessary to destroy the animal.
  - a. Responding sworn personnel shall complete a Uniform Incident Report, consistent with SOP Reports.
  - b. A Crime Scene Specialist (CSS) shall be called to the scene for photographs and to collect evidence, consistent with SOP Crime Scene Specialists Unit.
4. If sworn personnel discharged their Department-issued firearm in the destruction of an animal, they shall contact Internal Affairs Professional Standards Division (IAPS) personnel, consistent with SOP Internal Affairs Professional Standards (IAPS) Division.

**B. Capture of Animals**

1. In all cases where Department personnel or Emergency Communications Center (ECC) personnel are notified of a wild or dangerous animal in or near a populated



ALBUQUERQUE POLICE DEPARTMENT  
PROCEDURAL ORDERS

**SOP 2-105 (Formerly 4-26)**

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area, ECC personnel shall call the NMDGF and the City Animal Welfare Department.

2. Department personnel shall:

- a. Be responsible for observing and following the animal at a safe distance;
- b. Not attempt to apprehend or contain the animal;
- b. Transfer overall responsibility of the animal to NMDGF personnel once NMDGF personnel are on-scene; and
- c. Be responsible for crowd management.

REDLINED



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D. Rescinded Special Order(s)

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