

**DURHAM POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**86 Dover Road  
Durham, New Hampshire 03824  
(603)868-2324**

**POLICY #: 1.3.2.3.A**

**SUBJECT: Use of Force, Care of Domestic Animals**

NOTE: This written directive is for the internal governance of the Durham Police Department, and as provided by RSA 516:36, is not intended and should not be interpreted to establish a higher standard of care in any civil or criminal action than would otherwise be applicable under existing law.

## **Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to the Durham Police Department when responding to calls for service involving sick or injured domestic animals.

## **Policy**

- If a Durham Police Officer responds to a call for service involving a sick or injured DOMESTIC animal (cat or dog) whose owner(s) cannot be identified, it is the policy of the Durham Police Department to provide services as follows:
  - If, in the responding officer's opinion, the domestic animal is so badly injured or sick "that humanity requires that it be removed from further suffering", and the officer believes that its destruction at the scene would be against the sensitivities of the complainant or the complainant's family or others that are present, the officer is authorized to:
    1. remove the animal from the scene and take it to a qualified veterinary care facility;
    2. make it clear to the veterinary facility that the Town of Durham is not responsible for any medical treatment beyond euthanasia.
- If there are circumstances that the responding officer believes justify deviation from this directive, the officer must contact the Chief, Deputy Chief or Captain before authorizing care and payment.
- A written report will be completed for all incidents involving the use of force involving a domestic animal.