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DURHAM POLICE DEPARTMENT

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

POLICY #: 1.3.2.3

SUBJECT: Use of Force, Destruction of 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 animals.

Policy

If a Durham Police Officer responds to a call for service involving a sick or injured animal, and in the responding officer's opinion the animal is so badly injured or sick "that humanity requires that it be removed from further suffering", the officer is authorized to use deadly force to end the animals suffering as noted below:

DESTRUCTION OF ANIMALS

- A Durham Police Officer is authorized to use a firearm to kill a dangerous animal or an animal so badly injured or sick that humanity requires that it be removed from further suffering.
- In the case of an injured or sick domestic animal, the permission of the owner should be obtained whenever possible.
- Whenever possible, before destroying an animal, attempts should be made to request assistance from the Humane Society, a State Conservation Officer, or a veterinary hospital as applicable, except that the destruction of vicious animals shall be guided by the need for self-defense and safety of others.
- Great care should be taken to protect the public from a ricocheting bullet and, if possible, the killing of an animal in the presence of children should be avoided.
- When an animal is destroyed by an officer using **any** means, the officer shall submit a Response to Resistance Report within 24 hours to the Deputy Chief.