



# MILWAUKEE POLICE DEPARTMENT

## STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

### 060 – ANIMALS

**GENERAL ORDER:** 2024-25  
**ISSUED:** May 3, 2024

**EFFECTIVE:** May 3, 2024

**REVIEWED/APPROVED BY:**  
Assistant Chief Steven Johnson  
**DATE:** March 22, 2024

**ACTION:** Amends General Order 2023-65 (December 27, 2023)

**WILEAG STANDARD(S):** 11.2.1

### ROLL CALL VERSION

Contains only changes to current policy.  
For complete version of SOP, see SharePoint.

#### 060.05 ABANDONED OR STRAY ANIMALS

##### B. MILWAUKEE AREA DOMESTIC ANIMAL CONTROL COMMISSION (MADACC)

##### 5. MADACC Closed

##### c. Drop-Off Procedure:

3. For animals that have bitten victims, the telephone procedure is again followed; however, a ~~canary/goldenrod-colored~~ form titled *Bite Victim Information* must be completed and left in the repository.

#### 060.10 ABANDONED / SAFEKEEPING / UNWANTED ANIMALS

##### C. UNWANTED ANIMALS

MADACC does not accept unwanted animals for surrender from the public due to space limitations and animal health considerations. Members shall refer owners who wish to surrender an animal to the Wisconsin Humane Society at 414-264-2657. If an officer feels based on the totality of the circumstances that the animal may be set lose or abandoned by the owner, the officer may contact MADACC for further information or use the *Release of Animal Ownership* form supplied by MADACC to surrender ownership to MADACC. Government issued identification is required to surrender an animal and the owner must advise if the animal has been involved in a human bite in the last ten (10) days.

#### 060.25 VICIOUS ANIMALS

- E. In the event that force is used by a member and the animal is injured or there is a reasonable belief the animal was injured, regardless of whether visible injuries exist, members shall make reasonable attempts to ensure the animal receives care for its injuries. This may include, but is not limited to:

2. If the officer is unable to contact the owner and MADACC is open, the animal may be conveyed to MADACC or the officer may contact MADACC to have the animal collected and treated. If MADACC is closed, the officer shall:
  - b. Convey the animal to the VCA Milwaukee Emergency Center for Animals at 3670 S. 108<sup>th</sup> St. Greenfield, WI (phone 414-543-7387) if the animal is in serious condition that requires immediate care (such as bleeding where sutures are required, or the animal is lateral, in shock, or in need of immediate euthanasia). Owner information should be provided if it is available at the veterinary clinic.

### **060.30 SICK, INJURED, OR DEAD ANIMALS**

#### **A. DOMESTIC ANIMALS**

2. Sick and injured animals that are owned cannot be accepted for treatment at MADACC, and the officer shall refer the owner to contact a veterinarian. If an owned sick or injured animal is in such condition that euthanasia is the only option for the animal, the officer may refer the owner to take the animal to MADACC during normal business hours. If MADACC is closed, the officer may refer the owner to the VCA Milwaukee Emergency Center for Animals at 3670 S. 108<sup>th</sup> St. Greenfield, WI (phone 414-543-7387). Officers should not transport animals to a veterinarian on behalf of an owner unless the owner will be responding to the veterinarian as well.

### **060.45 ANIMAL CRUELTY / INSTIGATING FIGHTS BETWEEN ANIMALS INVESTIGATIONS**

- C. Members shall properly document crime scenes involving animal cruelty and instigating fights between animal investigations by calling for a crime scene trained officer (CST) ~~or forensic investigator~~ to photograph all evidence relevant to the investigation (e.g., photographs of the animal, living conditions of the animal, food and water available to the animal, any outdoor structures if present). If the member needs a forensic investigator or crime scene investigator, the member shall notify their shift commander. Shift commanders shall then notify the Criminal Investigation Bureau (CIB) at extension [REDACTED] and the CIB shift commander shall determine if a forensic investigator or crime scene investigator will respond to the scene.

#### **F. NECROPSY REQUESTS**

1. Necropsies can only be completed on deceased animals with a known owner and only when the officer has a reason to believe the death of the animal was caused by a criminal act. The Milwaukee Area Domestic Animal Control Division (MADACC) is unable to perform necropsies unless there is a very obvious cause of death (e.g., firearms, burning, stabbing).
2. If an officer comes into contact with a deceased animal during MADACC's business [hours](#) and would like a necropsy completed, they shall:
  - a. Contact their shift commander for approval to request a necropsy; and
  - b. Complete the *MADACC Law Enforcement Animal Intake Form* (located in the N:

drive Forms folder) and either bring the remains to MADACC or if MADACC is on the scene, have MADACC transport the remains back to their facility to schedule the necropsy. Make sure your email address is legible for the report submission.


3. If an officer comes into contact with a deceased animal outside of MADACC's business [hours](#) and would like a necropsy completed, they shall:
  - a. Contact their shift commander for approval to request a necropsy;
  - b. Convey the animal to the VCA Milwaukee Emergency Center for Animals at 3670 S. 108th St. Greenfield, WI (phone 414-543-7387); and
  - c. Complete the *MADACC Law Enforcement Animal Intake Form* (located in the N: drive Forms folder) and leave it with the animal. Make sure your email address is legible for the report submission.
4. MADACC may contact the officer within 72-hours if they need additional information prior to conducting the necropsy. If the officer does not respond to MADACC within this 72-hour period, MADACC may not complete the necropsy. If the member will be on vacation or any other extended leave of absence, they shall list their shift commander as the point of contact on the *Law Enforcement Animal Intake Form* in addition to their own name to ensure any follow up information can be provided to MADACC.
5. MADACC cannot guarantee that a necropsy can be completed at their facility under certain circumstances and at MADACC's discretion. In those instances, the remains will need to be sent to the Wisconsin Veterinary State Lab. MADACC will contact the officer making the necropsy request to advise of this and discuss the fees and process associated with this procedure.

#### **060.50 ANIMAL REFERRAL CASES TO MADACC**

If an officer comes across an animal living in poor conditions, living in a dirty yard, or not having insufficient shelter or care/husbandry that does not necessarily rise to the level of a violation of [Wis. Stat. 951](#) or [MCO 78](#), they may refer the case to MADACC by filling out a referral form at <http://madacc.org/madacc-referral-form/>.

3. MADACC will keep the referring officer apprised of the investigation if the officer provides their department email (not work location phone number). The officer may contact MADACC if they would like updates on the investigation.
4. MADACC is not a law enforcement agency and cannot investigate violations of City of Milwaukee Ordinances or Wisconsin State Statute. MADACC is unable to enter a property to seize an animal (to include animals found in abandoned residences, left behind in a rental property, vacant buildings, or from occupied residences including animals tied up on the property) without a seizing authority on-site, which includes law enforcement, the Department of Neighborhood Services, or a Health Department representative. MADACC cannot issue citations, bring cases to the District Attorney for

prosecution, require abatement of unsafe or unhealthy conditions related to animals, sever the ownership of an animal from an owner unless legal hold time has expired, or do any other investigative or forensic work at the scene.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J.B.N.' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

JEFFREY B. NORMAN  
CHIEF OF POLICE

JBN:mfk