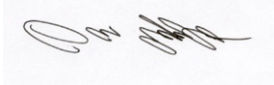
	<i>FIRE RESCUE</i> ALBEMARLE COUNTY Operational Guideline (SOG)	
	Subject:	Domestic and Wild Animal Response
	Reference Number:	SOG-OPS-027
	Effective Date:	April 1, 2017
	Last Revision Date:	N/A
	Signature of Approval:	 J. Dan Eggleston, Chief

Purpose:

The objective of this procedure is to provide field personnel with guidance in handling pets and other animals that are encountered as a result of an EMS, fire, or other response. These pets or animals may require medical attention and the responsible party is unknown, is unable to care for the animal, or the animal presents a danger to the general public. The pets or animals we encounter might also be trapped or injured.

The pets that we encounter are often times considered by the owners a part of the family. While our primary mission is for the protection and care of people, we should attempt to provide some level of care to domestic animals in distress whenever feasible and safe to do so as a part of our commitment to customer service. We shall display an open, caring concern for pets and animals when we deal with the public in these types of situations.

Scope:

This Standard Operating Guideline shall be applicable to all personnel operating within the Albemarle County coordinated and integrated fire and emergency medical service system as defined in Albemarle County Code Chapter 6, Article I, Division I, Section 6-100.

Policy:

Safety Considerations

Caution shall be used in approaching any animal, especially one that is injured. At no time is the safety of our members or that of the public to be compromised by attempting to rescue or capture an animal. If there is any doubt, the jurisdictional Animal Control Officer shall be requested through the Emergency Communications Center to handle the situation. When dealing with pet or animal rescues, they shall be handled similar to "property" when evaluating the risk/gain profile of the incident. Little if any risk should be taken by our personnel with pet or animal rescues.

Procedure

HANDLING DOMESTIC PETS (fires, trapped or injured pets)

Rescue Efforts

Rescuing pets during an incident shall take the same priority as any loss control activity. An evaluation shall be made in terms of the risk or exposure that our personnel would face, versus the likelihood of a positive outcome.

Domestic Animals Trapped or Pinned

The on duty Battalion Chief and/or station Duty Officer shall have the discretion to send/utilize department members and equipment to aide in the freeing of a trapped or pinned domestic animal such as a dog or cat that has a responsible party present.

For these types of incidents involving a stray or unknown domestic animal/pet the jurisdictional Animal Control Officer shall be requested to assist and/or handle.

Treatment of Injuries

Animal injuries can be treated in a similar manner as BLS injuries to a human. For example, bleeding can be controlled by direct pressure, elevation and bandaging. Burns can be cooled with water. Oxygen can be administered for breathing difficulties. Broken limbs can be stabilized using splints. At no time, however, shall any attempt be made to provide fluids intravenously. Only those specifically trained may administer subcutaneous fluid boluses to injured/dehydrated canines or other domestic animals.

Caring Attitude/Empathy

We should realize that to many people, an animal or pet is considered a family member. We shall attempt to treat their concerns with empathy and demonstrate a caring attitude towards their concern. In addition, if the incident has resulted in the death of an animal, we should attempt to assist them as needed with resources such as the ASPCA.

Stray Animals

For stray, uninjured animals, notification shall be made to the Emergency Communications Center for appropriate jurisdictional Animal Control Officers response.

Injured Animals - Roadway Incidents

Notifications for injured animals involved in a roadway accident or injured otherwise in the roadway shall be forwarded to the Emergency Communications Center for the appropriate jurisdictional Animal Control Officers response.

If it is necessary to move an injured domestic animal out of a roadway, the recommended procedure is to wrap the animal in a blanket and immobilize it before moving it. Muzzling the animal with material such as kling/cravat would be suggested. This will help to minimize the danger to the rescuers. Attempts to move or intervene with wild animals shall not be made.

HANDLING WILD ANIMALS

Albemarle County Fire Rescue members shall not intervene in calls for service involving wild animals. These calls for service shall be referred to private animal control contractors that are available for hire. The Emergency Communications Center, and/or the Animal Control Officer will make the determination for notification of the Game Warden and/or Game and inland Fisheries for injured and/or stray wildlife.

LARGE ANIMALS/LIVESTOCK

Any large animal and/or livestock related events shall be handled by the jurisdictional Animal Control Officer and/or law enforcement agency.