TOLEDO FIRE & RESCUE DEPARTMENT

# C-7 Animal Managment

**Emergency Manual**

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## Policy/Procedure

Toledo Fire and Rescue Department personnel will occasionally encounter unusual incidents involving animals. These may require crews to manage animals suffering burns or other injuries; manage unusual injuries to humans instigated by exotic animals, or other situations involving animals outside of normal Departmental response. In many cases these incidents will involve domesticated pets but, may involve wild, injured, dangerous, and or exotic animals.

Circumstances encountered may require knowledge of unusual handling techniques, boarding requirements, care, and or medical treatment beyond the capabilities of Toledo Fire and Rescue Department personnel. At the Department's disposal are several agencies that can be utilized to assist efforts to better manage emergencies involving animals. This protocol lists some of the circumstances that may be encountered, as well as the agencies that may assist personnel in need.

### 1. Procedural Protocols

1. Animal Bites:

    1. Upon arrival at an incident where an individual has been bitten by an animal, crews shall provide medical treatment and transport to a hospital as required. If a dog has bitten an individual, Command shall direct Dispatch to notify police for production of a dog bite report. If hospital treatment is necessary, Command shall instruct Dispatch to direct police to meet the victim at the hospital.

    2. If the bite is from a wild or potentially rabid animal, Nature's Nursery may be contacted for treatment advice.

    3. If the bite is from a possibly poisonous or exotic animal, the Toledo Zoo shall be contacted for

treatment advice and possible antidote, if available.

4. Command shall attempt to obtain the name and address of the animal's owner. Command shall attempt to have the animal confined for observation and tests.

5. If a firefighter has been bitten, crews shall provide medical treatment and transport to an appropriate hospital. Command shall direct Dispatch to notify a Battalion Chief and the on-duty Safety Officer.

2. Dead Animals:

    1. The City of Toledo's Streets, Bridges, and Harbors Department maintains a "dog wagon" twenty-four hours a day that will pick up dead animals in public right-of-ways including streets, sidewalks, alleys, and other areas.

    2. All animals that are too large for this truck will be handled by heavier equipment when arranged.

3. Burned Animals:

    1. Upon encountering a live, burned animal, Command shall direct Dispatch to refer to the Animal Management Call Out List for an agency that can provide appropriate aid.

    2. Domestic pets shall most often be referred to the Animal Emergency Clinic of Toledo. Fire Department vehicles may transport to this facility, though only to the extent the transport does not interfere with emergency operations at the incident or firefighter safety.

4. Natural Disasters and or Multiple Animals:

    1. Floods, tornados, accidents involving animal transport vehicles, or other disasters that affect numerous animals in a single incident may present first responders with unusual animal management challenges.

    2. Command shall direct Dispatch to request the deployment of the Northwest Ohio Disaster Animal Response Team (DART Team). This multi-county disaster management unit is equipped to mitigate problems related to medical treatment, feeding, and housing of multiple animals involved in disasters.

5. Aggressive and or Dangerous Animals:
    1. Command shall refer aggressive domestic animals that pose a threat to the public or firefighter operations at an incident to the Lucas County Dog Warden or Toledo Police for proper management.

    2. Members are directed to refer to the Department's Dog Bite protocol for the management of incidents involving those animals.

    3. Management of dangerous exotic animals may require Toledo Zoo personnel. When an incident surpasses the capability of the Toledo Fire and Rescue Department, Command shall

direct Dispatch to utilize the Animal Management Call Out List for an agency equipped to mitigate the emergency.

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See Also:

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