



California Exposition and State Fair Police Department

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DEPARTMENTAL GENERAL ORDER

ORDER № 2900.100

July 2019 (Revised)

08/13/2013 (New)

ESCAPED DANGEROUS ANIMALS

2900.101 POLICY

During the annual Sacramento County Fair, the annual California State Fair, and other special events featuring animals, large numbers of animals, (e.g. Cattle, Bulls, Horses, Pigs, Sheep, are on the state fairgrounds. This General Order provides guidelines when an animal escapes and possess a potential danger to the public. The police officers' primary responsibility with loose or escaped animals on the state fairgrounds is public safety; while also attempting to have the animal safely secured.

2900.102 GUIDELINES

Upon the initial response of a loose or escaped animal, police officers should identify the animal's current location and direction of travel. The initial officer should request available police officers and security guards to assist with containment and public safety.

The police dispatch should be instructed to notify the available Livestock Supervisor, Barn Supervisor, on-call veterinarian, animal owner, or responsible handler.

When a large animal escapes confinement, it may be the result of being frightened which could pose a danger to the public. Officers should: identify possible escape route; use available resources to provide confinement; close perimeter gates to prevent further escape; and use available barricades while simultaneously directing the public to a safe distance from the escaped animal, until the animal can be safely secured.

Officers should refrain from any actions that could further frighten or agitate the escaped animal, such as using vehicle horns, police sirens, loud speakers, or physical actions which could provoke the escaped animal.

Officers are encouraged, if the escaped animal is not an immediate threat to the public, to simply allow the animal to have space (comfort zone), to allow the animal to remain calm. If the escaped animal feels cornered or threatened, it may pose a danger to the public.

Officers should continue to contain the escaped animal while simultaneously directing the public to a safe distance, until the Livestock Supervisor, Barn Supervisor, Veterinarian, or owner can safely secure the escaped animal.

The mission of the California Exposition & State Fair Police is to:

Provide for the safety and security of visitors, employees, and stakeholders; keep order and preserve the peace; and support the economic well-being of the California Exposition & State Fair.

2900.103 DISPOSING AN ESCAPED DANGEROUS ANIMAL

Only as a last resort, when an escaped animal is an “immediate” danger to the public, may a California Exposition & State Fair Police Officer safely “dispose” an animal, with the approval of the Officer-in-Charge. The term “dispose” means a Police Officer using a firearm to down the escaped dangerous animal.

A **dangerous animal** is defined as any animal, except a dog assisting a peace officer engaged in law enforcement duties, which demonstrates any of the following behavior:

- (a) Any animal that chases or approaches any person or domestic animal, in a menacing fashion or apparent attitude of attack, including, but not limited to, behavior such as growling or snarling.
- (b) Any animal which, when unprovoked, engages in any behavior that requires a defensive action by any person to prevent bodily injury when the person and the animal are in close proximity to each other?
- (c) Any animal which, when unprovoked, has killed, seriously bitten, inflicted injury, or otherwise caused injury attacking any other animal on the state fairgrounds property.

2900.104 DOCUMENTATION

At the conclusion of any incident where a police officer was required to dispose of an escaped and dangerous animal, an Incident Report will be completed with supplemental reports submitted by all involved officers. Officers will make every attempt to identify all witnesses and obtain statements. The primary officer is responsible for assuring the scene is photographed.

If a member of the public suffered any injury, the necessary Casualty Report will be prepared.

The Chief of Police shall be notified as soon as possible.