



San Diego Community College District Police Department Policy and Procedures

6.06 HANDLING OF INJURED ANIMALS

EFF. 10/01/19

I. PURPOSE

This Department procedure establishes guidelines for the care and disposition of injured animals.

II. SCOPE

This procedure applies to all members of the Department.

III. BACKGROUND

A. Penal Code Section 597.1 requires police officers, animal control officers, and humane society officers to convey all injured cats and dogs found without their owners in a public place directly to a veterinarian for emergency treatment.

B. The San Diego County Humane Society is designated as the responsible agency for responding to injured cats and dogs found within the limits of the City of San Diego. The Humane Society will provide treatment and/or euthanasia to injured cats and dogs on a twenty-four hour basis. The Humane Society will not provide treatment to wildlife. The Humane Society may, however, be able to transport the wild animal to an appropriate care facility or provide euthanasia, if appropriate.

C. The District maintains a Animal Health Technology program, located at the Mesa College campus.

IV. PROCEDURE

A. The welfare of the injured animal is to be given first consideration.

B. Police officers who need assistance with handling or transporting an injured cat or dog will request an animal control officer via College Police Dispatch. The animal control officer will assume responsibility for the animal upon his/her arrival.

1. Injured animals may be taken to the Humane Society during normal business hours, 0930 to 1730 hours, Tuesday through Saturday.
 2. Injured animals may be taken to the VCA Emergency Animal Hospital and Referral Center, 2317 Hotel Circle South, San Diego, (619) 299-2400 for emergency treatment 24-hours a day.
- C. Police officers are not to take injured animals to a private veterinarian or pet hospitals for treatment, other than to the VCA Emergency Animal Hospital and Referral Center, under the guidelines set forth above.
- D. If an injured animal is licensed and does not require immediate treatment, an attempt should be made to notify the owner by contacting the Humane Society.
- E. Should College Police respond to injured animal calls at Mesa College's Animal Health Technology after-hours, then the appropriate administrator should be contacted.