

CIRCULAR



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Title
Assisting with Animal-Related Complaints and Calls for Service
Number
CIR-25-04
Effective Date
June 24, 2025
Expiration Date
June 24, 2027
Related to:
GO-SPT-302.01 (Calls for Service)
GO-OPS-401.07 (Animal Complaints and Reporting Animal Bitings)

As of January 1, 2025, animal control services are provided by a new contractor, Brandywine Valley SPCA, after historically being provided by the Humane Rescue Alliance. The role of animal control is distinct from law enforcement. As two organizations now provide animal-related services in DC, the purpose of this circular is to provide clarification as to which organization should be contacted to respond to animal-related issues.

A. Animal Cruelty and Neglect

1. The Humane Law Enforcement Division of the Humane Rescue Alliance (HRA) (formerly Washington Humane Society) is the current animal cruelty and neglect contractor for DC and handles animals abandoned on private property, animals left in hot vehicles, direct physical harm and abuse of animals, and neglect of animals. Questions about incidents of animal cruelty and neglect in violation of [Title 22, Chapter 10 \(Cruelty to Animals\)](#) of the DC Official Code may be directed to HRA (71 Oglethorpe St NW) at 202-723-5730 or dispatch@humanerescuealliance.org.
2. For reports of animal cruelty and neglect, members may request HRA response through the Office of Unified Communications (OUC).

B. Animal Control

1. DC Animal Control/Brandywine Valley SPCA (BVSPCA) is the current animal control contractor for DC and handles loose or confined stray animals, wildlife issues, bite cases, eviction and warrant assistance, animals left or found on public/shared space, and other animal control issues. Questions about animal-related emergencies, at-large and dangerous animals, and wildlife issues in violation of [Title 8, chapter 18 \(Animal Control\)](#) of the DC Official Code may be directed to BVSPCA (1201 New York Ave NE) at 202-888-7387.
2. For animal-related emergencies, at-large and dangerous animals, and wildlife issues, members may request BVSPCA response through OUC.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pamela A. Smith".

Pamela A. Smith
Chief of Police