



ALBUQUERQUE POLICE DEPARTMENT  
PROCEDURAL ORDERS

SOP 2-105 (Formerly 4-26) Effective: 03/26/2022 Review: 03/26/2023 Replaces: 01/14/2016

## 2-105 DESTRUCTION/CAPTURE OF ANIMALS

### Related SOP(s), Form(s), Other Resource(s), and Rescinded Special Order(s):

A. Related SOP(s)

[1-35 Crime Scene Specialists Unit \(Formerly 5-8\)](#)  
[1-62 Internal Affairs Professional Standards \(IAPS\) Division \(Formerly 2-05 and 7-1\)](#)  
[2-16 Reports \(Formerly 1-05\)](#)

B. Form(s)

None

C. Other Resource(s)

City of Albuquerque Animal Welfare Department  
New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF)  
ROA 1994, § 9-2-1-4 Definitions  
ROA 1994, § 9-17-3 Definitions

D. Rescinded Special Order(s)

None

### 2-105-1 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide Albuquerque Police Department (Department) sworn personnel with guidance when assisting New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF) personnel and City of Albuquerque Animal Welfare Department personnel when responding to incidents involving wild or dangerous animals.

### 2-105-2 Policy

It is the policy of the Department to assist NMDGF personnel and City Animal Welfare Department sworn personnel in the destruction and/or capture of wild or dangerous animals.

### N/A 2-105-3 Definitions

A. Dangerous Dog

1. A dog that:

- a. Has, without provocation, caused serious injury, great bodily harm, or mortal injury to a person or companion animal; or
- b. Was previously designated as a potentially dangerous dog and subsequently:



ALBUQUERQUE POLICE DEPARTMENT  
PROCEDURAL ORDERS

SOP 2-105 (Formerly 4-26) Effective: 03/26/2022 Review: 03/26/2023 Replaces: 01/14/2016

- i. Causes injury to a person or companion animal that is less severe than a serious injury; or
- ii. Is observed by any person chasing or menacing a person or companion animal in an aggressive manner and without provocation.

2. A Department Police Service Dog is not considered a dangerous dog by definition, consistent with City Ordinance § 9-17-13.

B. Wild Animal

A species of animal that is exotic to humans and is unlawful to possess, consistent with City Ordinance § 9-2-1-4.

**7** **2-105-4**      **Procedures**

A. Destruction of Animals

1. When an animal is mortally injured, the on-duty FSB supervisor may authorize the destruction of the animal.
  - a. Sworn personnel shall consult with NMDGF personnel or City Animal Welfare Department sworn personnel, if time permits.
2. Whenever possible, if the destruction of the animal is needed, it shall be carried out by NMDGF personnel.
3. Sworn personnel may discharge their Department-issued firearm to destroy the animal, if a life-threatening situation or threat to public safety exists or if the animal is mortally injured and it is necessary to destroy the animal.
  - a. Responding sworn personnel shall complete a Uniform Incident Report, consistent with SOP Reports.
  - b. A CSS shall be called to the scene for photographs and to collect any evidence, consistent with SOP Crime Scene Specialists Unit.
4. If sworn personnel discharged their Department-issued firearm in the destruction of an animal, they shall contact Internal Affairs Professional Standards Division (IAPS) personnel, consistent with SOP Internal Affairs Professional Standards (IAPS) Division.

B. Capture of Animals

1. In all cases where Department personnel or Emergency Communications Center (ECC) personnel are notified of a wild or dangerous animal in or near a populated area, ECC personnel shall call the NMDGF and the City Animal Welfare Department.



ALBUQUERQUE POLICE DEPARTMENT  
PROCEDURAL ORDERS

SOP 2-105 (Formerly 4-26)    Effective: 03/26/2022    Review: 03/26/2023    Replaces: 01/14/2016

2. Department personnel shall:

- a. Be responsible for observing and following the animal at a safe distance;
- b. Not attempt to apprehend or contain the animal;
- b. Transfer overall responsibility of the animal to NMDGF personnel once they are on-scene; and
- c. Be responsible for crowd management.