

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

Definition:

Under general supervision of a Senior Animal Control Officer explains and enforces state laws and county ordinances relating to the treatment and control of animals; conducts surveys of private households and businesses to ensure animals are licensed and have current rabies vaccinations; and performs related work as required.

Distinguishing Characteristics:

Incumbents perform a full range of duties, including patrol, licensing, quarantine, impounding, caring for and disposing of animals. Incumbents are required to wear a uniform during work hours; may be assigned to any shift in a 24-hour period; routinely be on stand-by for emergency calls and must be willing to work in all weather conditions.

Essential Functions:

- Explains and interprets animal control laws, regulations, policies and procedures; advises public regarding reclaim, relinquishing and adoption of pets or livestock.
- Answers complaints concerning animals and takes appropriate action; makes investigations of animal bites and issues quarantine notices; investigates and takes appropriate action to prevent inhumane treatment of animals.
- Issues violation notices and court citations; collects evidence and appears in court as a witness.
- Uses tranquilizer guns, shotguns, rifles or other means to control or euthanize dangerous and/or injured animals as a last resort.
- Impounds and transports sick, injured, stray or dead animals; administers minor first aid and emergency treatment for animals.
- Collects fees and issues receipts for licenses and other animal care/control services.
- Captures, loads and transports livestock using trailers.
- Works cooperatively with a variety of law enforcement agencies when joint action is required.
- Speaks at schools and to other community groups concerning animal control services; answers questions concerning age, breed, characteristics, care and treatment of animals.
- Prepares lab samples for suspected rabid animals.
- Keeps records and prepares reports.

- Maintains and as necessary, makes minor repair to facilities, equipment and vehicles.
- Assists in front office, dispatch and shelter operations as necessary.
- Conducts surveys of households throughout the County to ensure compliance with State and County laws pertaining to the licensing, rabies vaccination and care of animals.
- Performs other job-related duties as assigned.

Employment Standards:

High school diploma, G.E.D or equivalent and one year of experience in a setting which included the care and handling of animals or work of a responsible nature working with people in situations requiring the exercise of tact and good judgment; OR any equivalent combination of training and experience.

Possession of a valid California Motor Vehicle Driver's license.

Completion of a certified Penal Code 832 course in arrest and firearms is required within one year of appointment, and preferred before appointment.

Knowledge of: State laws and county ordinances relating to licensing, impounding, care, treatment and disposal of animals; techniques and procedures for the safe, humane and efficient handling of animals; various breeds of animals and their care and feeding; causes and symptoms of common animal diseases.

Ability to: Read, understand and explain applicable State and local laws, regulations and ordinances; recognize symptoms of rabies and other animal diseases; analyze situations and adopt effective courses of action; handle sick, injured, dangerous or dead animals and decomposing animal carcasses in a safe and humane manner; learn the use and care of small firearms, tranquilizer guns and other assigned equipment; learn various techniques of safe and humane euthanasia of animals, such as lethal injection; euthanize dangerous, sick, or unwanted animals; meet and deal effectively with the public; keep records, fill out forms and prepare detailed reports; testify in court; read, understand and follow oral and written instructions.

A background check may be conducted for this classification.

All Kern County employees are designated "Disaster Service Workers" through state and local laws (CA Government Code Sec. 3100-3109 and Ordinance Code Title 2-Administration, Ch. 2.66 Emergency Services.) As Disaster Service Workers, all County employees are expected to remain at work, or to report for work as soon as practicable following a significant emergency or disaster.

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