



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT AGENCY  
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON WEST POINT  
681 HARDEE PLACE  
WEST POINT, NY 10996-1554

IMML-ZA

1 March 2019

U.S. ARMY GARRISON WEST POINT POLICY #14

SUBJECT: Euthanizing Wild Animals within the Cantonment Area

1. REFERENCES.

- a. Title 16, Chapter 5, Subchapter 1, Section 670 a-f, United States Code – Conservation Programs on Military Installations.
- b. Environmental Conservation Law of New York State, Article 11 – Fish and Wildlife, Title 1 – General Provisions; and, Title 9 – Hunting.
- c. USMA Regulation 210-30, Animal Control, dated 29 May 2003.
- d. American Veterinary Medical Association Guidelines on Euthanasia, dated June 2007.

2. PURPOSE. To set forth guidelines for the euthanizing of wild animals.

3. APPLICABILITY. This policy applies to the United States Army Garrison West Point (USAG WP), its subordinate agencies and activities and tenant activities.

4. POLICY. This policy shall establish responsibilities for euthanizing wild animals as necessary within the USAG WP Cantonment Area.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES.

a. The Directorate of Public Works (DPW) in coordination with other USAG WP agencies will:

- (1) Implement this policy for the euthanizing of injured wildlife and wildlife that are an identified health or safety risk to humans or domestic animals, in accordance with (IAW) Federal and New York laws and regulations, USMA Regulation 210-30 and guidance from the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA). All animals will be handled and euthanized in a manner which represents the minimum risk to the public, public sensitivities, the control personnel involved, and represents a minimum of stress and pain for the animal. Wildlife will not be released to unsuitable habitats, or without a health assessment by DPW Natural Resources and/or MEDDAC Veterinary Services.

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(a) Animals will be captured such that there is a minimum of human contact. The method will be secure enough to guarantee complete control over the animal, but not cause undue suffering. Animals will be transported and held such that they are well secured, maintained at a comfortable temperature with adequate air, and with a minimum of human exposure.

(b) Methods of euthenization will represent the least risk to all personnel (to include ricochet and exposure to bodily fluids), be reliable, fast acting, and practical. If the animal is to be tested for rabies, the head and brain must be preserved intact. Acceptable methods of euthanasia include: gunshot to the head if rabies is not suspected, gunshot to the heart if the head is to be preserved for rabies testing; pharmacological agents applied by trained and licensed personnel; thoracic compression; rapid asphyxiation; and decapitation/exsanguination.

(c) Any personnel bitten or scratched by any unfamiliar animal, or having contact with bodily fluids of such animals, should immediately wash the area with soap and water and seek medical attention. Rabies pre-exposure prophylaxis, and the use of PPE, such as gloves, long pants and sleeves and heavy boots, is recommended for personnel involved in the handling of wild animals. All equipment used in handling wild animals should be cleaned with a disinfecting agent following use.

(2) Through the DPW pest management services contract, respond to all calls to dispatch and dispose of any small to medium sized wildlife that is injured or is identified as a health or safety risk, IAW established procedures. The pest control contractor is not authorized under New York law to use chemicals to immobilize or euthanize wildlife. In addition to that provided by pest management, emergency response will also be provided by the Environmental Management Division, Natural Resources Branch. Conditions warranting an emergency response include: any animal behaving in an aggressive or unusual manner, any obviously ill animal, and any animal trapped within work or habitated areas where human contact is probable. Any animal that is a suspected rabies vector and has had contact with a human or domestic animal, will be turned over to US Army Medical Department Activity (MEDDAC) Veterinary Services personnel or other suitable laboratories for testing, IAW USMA Reg. 210-30.

(3) For deer critically injured due to accident which cannot stand or are not motile, these deer should be dispatched immediately by gunshot by the Military Police, maintaining all safety considerations for personnel in the area. Wounded deer may kick, and represent a significant risk. They should not be closely approached without training. Once euthanized, the carcasses will be disposed of by DPW. For deer that are mobile, coordination shall be made between DPW, Directorate of Emergency Services (DES) and MEDDAC Veterinary Services to determine appropriate course of action. The pest control contractor is not authorized under New York law to dispatch an injured deer.

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(4) For animals found dead on post, and the cause of death is easily determined as accident, the DPW pest management services contractor shall remove all carcasses and transport them to the Transfer Station. If an animal is found outside of normal duty hours, determination shall be made by the Provost Marshal whether the carcass is a traffic or safety hazard that requires immediate removal or if it can remain until the beginning of the next duty day. The DPW after-hours service desk telephone number shall be called to contact the contractor if an after-hours removal is required. For animals found dead for which there is no apparent cause of death, these animals will be delivered to DPW Natural Resources and/or MEDDAC Veterinary Services for necropsy.

b. The DES Provost Marshal will respond to all calls reporting a wild animal attacking or injuring a human or domestic animal. On site, the offending animal may be killed, captured, or isolated by DES provided this can be accomplished in a safe manner. Otherwise, it will be monitored at all times until DPW personnel or the pest services contractor arrives to dispatch the animal. Names and contact information of all personnel involved will be recorded.

c. The MEDDAC Veterinary Services will accept all euthanized wildlife that had contact with humans or domestic wildlife to send out for appropriate testing of infectious diseases IAW USMA 210-30.

d. In the event rabies is confirmed in any tested animal, notification will be made to MEDDAC Preventative Medicine and the office of the Garrison Commander so that appropriate steps may be made to ensure adequate notification of Garrison staff and residents.

(1) Contact Numbers:

|                          |                        |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Military Police          | 938-3333               |
| DPW Pest Management      | 938-7191               |
| Natural Resources Branch | 938-7122, x1973, x3857 |
| Veterinary Services      | 938-3817               |
| Preventative Medicine    | 938-2676, x5822, x5834 |
| DPW Service Desk         | 938-2316               |

6. EXPIRATION. This policy memorandum will remain in effect for two years from date of signing.



HARRY C. MARSON  
COL, SF  
Commanding