

City of Stevenson Use of Force on Dangerous Animal Policy

I. Purpose

The purpose of this Standard Operating Policy is to provide guidance on the use of physical force and to ensure that our employees use only the force reasonably necessary to accomplish lawful objectives and to explain issued equipment that may be used in response to physical threats.

II. Policy

Employees shall exert only the amount of force necessary to reduce the level of resistance or aggression presented to the employee in their official capacity while on duty. Use of Force applies to the equipment issued by the City of Stevenson, as well as any other items which could be used as a weapon.

III. Procedure

- A. The use of physical, non-deadly force is authorized in circumstances when:
 - 1. An escalation of force is justified by the actions of an animal.
 - 2. In self-defense of a third party or if circumstances warrant the immediate use of force.
- B. When use of physical force results in injury, it shall be reported appropriately and the injury treated.
- C. Only equipment issued or approved by the City of Stevenson may be carried by employees.

IV. Approved Equipment

- A. O/C Spray/Pepper spray
 - 1. Employees are authorized to carry O/C spray as long as it is provided by the City of Stevenson.
 - 2. O/C spray should be discharged at a distance of three (3) to ten (10) feet from the intended animal.
 - 3. O/C spray should be discharged in two (2) one second bursts directed towards the eyes of the intended animal. Employees will utilize the

least amount of force by the application of O/C spray or other means to gain compliance and or gain sufficient distance to evade the animal.

4. Medical treatment: Animals are not required to be transported to a veterinarian unless the animal is in need of medical treatment. Individuals who have been exposed to O/C spray, in other than a controlled training environment, shall be provided an opportunity to clean up and decontaminate or be allowed transportation to the hospital or closest medical treatment facility for treatment as soon as possible after exposure.

B. Stun Gun

1. Employees will be issued a City owned Stun Gun after they have reviewed and signed acknowledgement of the dangerous animal policy and have received training on its use.
2. Use of Stun Gun on Animals
 - a) Employees will use the lowest level of force necessary to protect the public or themselves from animals that may be aggressive or vicious. A Stun Gun device should never be pointed at an animal unless there is justification for its anticipated use.
 - b) Employees should avoid directly aiming at the head or face of an animal. Doing so may cause significant damage to the eye if impacted directly.
 - c) Whenever the Stun Gun is used, Employees will notify a supervisor as soon as possible. Use of Force incidents will be documented on the form in Exhibit A describing the incident in detail. Reports shall be completed by the end of the employee's shift.
 - d) Stun Guns are to be utilized for smaller animals and are not intended for use against animals weighing over 200 to 300 pounds.

I have read and understand this policy and will abide by its provisions.

Signed: _____

Employee Name: _____

Date: _____

Exhibit A

REPORT OF ACCIDENT/INCIDENT

_____ Safety Incident

_____ Accident Not Requiring Medical Attention

_____ Accident Requiring Medical Attention

Employee Name:	
Job Title:	Department:
Date & Time of Accident/Incident:	/ AM/PM
Date of Report:	Report To:
Location:	
Other Employees Involved/Witness:	
Describe Injury:	
Describe Incident and Cause:	
Action Taken:	