



# CRYSTAL POLICE DEPARTMENT

## Department Policy Manual

TITLE: Destroying Animals  
NUMBER: 9.5  
DATE: 08/17/2011  
NO. PAGES: 1

---

### POLICY

When an animal is critically injured and the Humane Society service is not readily available, the owner's permission shall be obtained to destroy the animal by shooting with service weapon. If the owner is not available, the names and addresses of witnesses to verify that the animal was critically injured shall be obtained.

If the owner is present, it is his/her responsibility to have the animal removed.

### PROCEDURES

The following guidelines are provided to aid police officers who are required to destroy an animal.

- The animal shall be removed from public view prior to destroying, whenever possible.
- The animal should be placed upon the ground (in lieu of pavement) to decrease the possibility of ricochet.
- Shoot the animal from close range (5 to 15 feet maximum, if possible)
- Shoot "down" into the animal so that the projectile, if exiting the animal's body will enter the ground
- Shoot the animal in the brain to minimize suffering. Upon destroying an animal, arrangements should be made without delay for removal of the animal's body.

### EXCEPTION

If the possibility of rabies exists or if the animal has bitten someone, the animal cannot be shot in the brain. In these cases, the animal should be shot in the chest cavity, directly behind either front leg, and the animal's body must be removed to the State Department of Health, University of Minnesota.