

City of La Feria

Job Description: Animal Control Officer

Position Summary

The Animal Control Officer is responsible for enforcing City ordinances and State laws related to the care, control, and treatment of animals within the City of La Feria. This position ensures public safety, promotes responsible pet ownership, and provides humane care for impounded animals.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities

- Enforce City animal control ordinances and State animal welfare laws.
- Respond to complaints involving stray, dangerous, injured, or nuisance animals.
- Capture, handle, transport, and impound animals in a safe and humane manner.
- Investigate animal bites, cruelty cases, neglect, and nuisance complaints; prepare detailed reports and issue citations when appropriate.
- Educate the public on animal laws, pet care, rabies prevention, and vaccination requirements.
- Assist in coordinating vaccination clinics, adoption events, and community outreach programs.
- Quarantine and monitor animals involved in bite cases per State and local requirements.
- Maintain accurate records of calls, citations, impoundments, adoptions, and euthanasia procedures.
- Operate and maintain animal control equipment, vehicles, and shelters in a safe and sanitary condition.
- Collaborate with Police, Fire, Code Enforcement, and other City departments on joint cases.
- Perform other duties as assigned to support City operations.

Minimum Qualifications

- High School Diploma or GED required.
- Valid Texas Driver's License with an acceptable driving record.
- Must be able to obtain Texas Department of State Health Services Animal Control Officer Certification within one year of hire.
- Ability to communicate effectively in English (Spanish bilingual skills preferred).
- Knowledge of basic animal care, behavior, and safe handling techniques.
- Ability to work independently, exercise sound judgment, and remain calm in stressful situations.
- Physical ability to lift 50 pounds, walk, run, bend, and restrain animals as needed.

Preferred Qualifications

- Prior experience in animal control, law enforcement, or related field.
- Knowledge of City ordinances and State health codes related to animals.
- Training in humane animal capture and tranquilization procedures.

Working Conditions

Work performed indoors and outdoors in varying weather conditions.

Exposure to potentially dangerous animals, zoonotic diseases, and hazardous situations.

Must be available for on-call duty, evenings, weekends, and emergencies as assigned.