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Case Narrative for 22012052 (12/18/22 11:26)

Printed on June 13, 2023

Primary Report By Geoffrey Brown, 12/18/22 11:26

Dangerous Animals Running At Large

Case #22012052

Typed By Geoffrey Brown

On listed date and time I, Sgt. Brown, was off duty and received a call from Laurens County Dispatch, stating that at the [REDACTED], were 4 dogs that had killed the complainant, [REDACTED] goat and were eating in her back yard. They stated 1 dog was a german shepherd and the other 3 were tan/brown in color unknown type. They stated that earlier in the day, [REDACTED] had called and reported the dogs and was told to call back Monday if they were still there which is protocol. They stated now her son, [REDACTED] was on the phone asking that they call me as the on call Animal Control Deputy, to see if there was anything we could do.

When I heard the description of the dogs I recognized the as a pack of dogs roaming Laurens City that have killed or injured multiple pets and cornered more than one elderly resident and have declared a public safety risk. I told dispatch to call the son back and advise him that he can eliminate them if necessary. I also advised dispatch that Laurens City Police Department are supposed to know about this and agreed to also eliminate the pack on site. I told her to dispatch them there until I could arrive. Dispatch never told me the dogs killed the goat the night before but I did read it in the CAD later on after the call was complete.

When I got into my truck and marked en-route, I asked if Laurens City had responded and dispatch said they had been dispatched but no unit was en-route. I then contacted Lt. Byrd the on duty supervisor for our agency and asked for someone to respond. Lt. Byrd stated he was en-route and would get Sgt. Lowe and Deputy Priest to respond as well. Before a deputy could arrive, Dispatch advised that Laurens City was on scene but refused to eliminate the animals because they were not currently being aggressive.

Lt. Byrd, Sgt. Lowe and myself communicated while en-route that they would respond with shotguns as I am not issued one. Lt. Byrd and myself were first to arrive and Officer Richey and Sgt. Willard of Laurens City were on scene watching the dogs. We could see the german shepherd and 2 of the brown/tan dogs laying against the complainant's fence. Lt. Byrd armed himself with his department issued 12 ga shot gun and as we approached the 4th dog came from behind the house. All the dogs got up and started to move toward the side of the fence into brush. Lt. Byrd fired one shot with buck shot and struck at least one of the tan/brown dogs. That dog dropped as the others ran into the woods and that dog got up and followed. Lt. Byrd did aim again but where the dogs were then there was a house behind them and he did not have a safe shot.

We returned to our vehicles and went down Anderson Dr. toward the direction the dogs ran to search for them. 2 houses down on the right, Sgt. Lowe and Lt. Byrd located 3 of the dogs in the back yard at the wood line but the dogs scattered into the woods and even though we searched for over an hour both on foot and in our vehicles with the assistance of Deputies Priest and Heitholt, we were never able to locate the animals.

I then returned to the complainant's house along with Sgt. Lowe. Lowe took pictures of the deceased goat which were sent to PVO via email. I spoke with both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who advised the goat was actually killed on Thursday night but they did not see the dogs kill the goat. [REDACTED] asked again if the dogs returned if he could eliminate them and I told him yes he did not have to wait for more animals or a human to get bit if it was the same dogs. [REDACTED] said he asked again because while he was waiting on Deputies to arrived he was going to shoot the dogs as instructed but was told by Officer Richey that if he did he would go to jail. I told him to do what he had to do to protect his 92 year old mother and their animals but reminded him he was responsible for every pellet from the time he squeezed the trigger until it came to rest. He indicated he understood and would only shoot down at the dogs if necessary.

I then returned to my vehicle where I called Laurens City Captain Dillon Sherfield and told him of the situation and that Officer Richey had allegedly told the complainant that he would go to jail. I told him that was not going to happen and that we needed to be on the same page before something happened and we had an issue. He agreed and then called

me back after he talked to Richey and Williard and assured me we were on the same page.

I then called dispatch and told them if there was another incident after hours at this location to call me directly. Lt. Byrd and Sgt. Lowe said they would inform the night shift supervisors in case the dogs returned. I then cleared without further incident. End of report.