

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER I

DEFINITION OF WORK

Employees in this class perform responsible public safety work by enforcing animal control ordinances for the County. Employees receive general supervision from the Animal Control Officer II in daily activities and difficult to handle situations.

EXAMPLES OF WORK

Employees in this class are responsible for carrying out a program of animal control in a designated part of the County. The majority of time is spent in the patrol of the County, answering calls and investigating complaints concerning unvaccinated, unwanted, dangerous, nuisance, and rabid animals including wildlife and domestic animals. Employees investigate complaints and pick up stray animals; trap or tranquilize animals; take apprehended animals to the shelter; enforce animal ordinances. Employee issue appropriate warning and citations; issue citations for violations of animal control ordinances; investigate reports of animal bites, and enforce laws requiring confinement of animals for observation; provide initial investigations of cruelty to animal cases and recommend appropriate action; take wounded animals to veterinarians for care; testify in court when necessary on a variety of cases and complaints; euthanize animals in the field when needed; operate a pickup truck and animal handling equipment; set traps and cages to collect wild and vicious animals; maintain completed records on activities; keep logs on daily activities and calls; and provide on-call coverage to answer after-hour animal control calls. Initiative is required to ensure that animal owners comply with regulations, and considerable tact, firmness, and decisiveness are necessary in dealing with the public. Independent judgment must be exercised in deciding what action to take if animals cannot be readily captured. Work also requires the employees to provide complete documentation regarding all animal control activities performed in the field. The employees are periodically on-call to answer after hours calls and to assist in shelter maintenance. Work is evaluated through observation, review of reports, and discussion concerning how particular incidents or activities were handled. Employees perform related work as required.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS

Education and Experience:

Graduation from high school and two years of experience involving handling and caring for animals; or an equivalent combination of education and experience.

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

Working knowledge of State laws and local ordinances relating to rabies and animal control and confinement of animals; working knowledge of methods of safely capturing and caring for animals; working knowledge of breeds of animals to aid in identification of lost pets and to know aggressiveness of various breeds; ability to deal constructively and tactfully with the public and to maintain composure in stressful situations; ability to maintain accurate reports, to develop legal citations and warnings, and to testify in court when necessary; ability to operate a motor vehicle.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Training and certification as required by the County such as training and certification for euthanizing animals in a humane and legal way. Background check with local law enforcement agency required.

Must have and maintain a valid North Carolina driver's license with an acceptable driving record. Condition of Employment: Each applicant who is tendered an offer for employment for any position with Cumberland County shall be tested for the use of drugs specified in the County policy. Refusal to submit to testing or a confirmed positive test shall be basis for withdrawal of the conditional employment offer.

ADA REQUIREMENTS

Employees are subject to hazards in public safety work including working in inside and outside environments, extreme temperatures, and the risks involved in handling rabid or vicious animals as well as exposure to various hazards such as assorted atmospheric conditions, noise, vibration, and physical conditions. Employees may also be exposed to bloodborne pathogens, are subject to the OSHA rules and regulations, are considered in a safety sensitive position, and may be required to work in close quarters. Work may subject employees to compliance with final OSHA Standards on bloodborne pathogens.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

Must be able to physically perform the basic life functions of climbing, balancing, stooping, kneeling, crouching, crawling, reaching, standing, walking, pushing, pulling, lifting, fingering, grasping, feeling, talking, hearing, and repetitive motions.

Must be able to perform very heavy work exerting in excess of 100 pounds of force occasionally, and/or in excess of 50 pounds of force frequently, and/or in excess of 20 pounds of force constantly to move objects.

Must possess the visual acuity to operate a vehicle and distinguish details and differences when observing breeds and colors of animals, and to operate a computer terminal and prepare records using data and figures.