

Cost/Benefit Analysis for Animal Control Officer (ACO) sharing with Brunswick

- Number of Freeport calls for service relating to animals: 509 for 2018
 - Time spent on these calls varies depending on the incident. Typical calls involve locating an animal, attempting to find the owner, transporting the animal to the shelter, meeting with the owner to issue warnings or summonses, and documenting the incident. Other calls can be simpler (barking dog) or more complicated (dog bite).
- ACO –
 - required to have one for each community
 - shared services happen between many communities
 - specialized training is required: with one person trained specifically for animal calls, they will be handled with a high level of competency
- **Benefits**
 - Specialty with animal calls for service – training, education, and experience with all types of animal calls (wild, domestic, large, small, injured, rabid, sick, kennels, quarantined)
 - Follow up (checking on conditions, quarantine) would be done by one person
 - Lower rate of pay for Brunswick's ACO (as compared to a police officer). The Brunswick ACO is going through the process to be sworn as a Reserve Officer.
 - Availability to respond to calls for service
 - Ratio would be 30 hours for Brunswick: 10 hours for Freeport
 - Week to week the hours could vary depending on calls for service, some weeks requiring more than others; if there are no calls, there would be some patrol in Freeport; hours would be tracked, so we can re-visit the allotment over the course of the year.
 - Brunswick ACO provides information and guidance to a Freeport officer if the ACO is not working and when the ACO is working but not actually in Freeport
 - Avoids using the Harbor Master/Marine Patrol (Special Enforcement) as the person assigned to Freeport's animal calls
 - Response times are limited by duties on the waterfront and on the water
 - Takes the HM/MP away from specialized duties
 - Minimizes the need to reassign patrol officers (who do not have specialized training) to respond and handle ACO calls when the HM/MP is not on duty or is otherwise occupied
 - Avoids putting animals (with different diseases or levels of health) in the same cruiser space where people (arrestees, citizens needing assistance, etc.) are put for conveyance
 - Limits damage to equipment (wear and tear on seats) and keeps ticks, fleas, and other bugs out of the cruiser
 - Minimizes officer contact with animals that have, in the past, caused loss of work time and worker's compensation issues when officers were bitten or injured when handling an animal call for service

- **Costs**

- One quarter of the cost of wages and benefits paid to the Brunswick ACO (approximately \$20,000.00) including the gas and the vehicle (SUV with cargo platform that can attach to a Reese hitch, decals would include “Brunswick-Freeport Animal Control”)