

Henry Bergh; have you ever heard of him? Bergh was instrumental in creating the American Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in the 1860's, and was credited for creating a "Declaration of the Rights of Animals". This declaration and the creation of the society helped start the humane societies we know today, as well as animal care, control, and the protection field.

Some early associations of animal control come from the cartoon "Dog Catcher", where the character is running around with a net trying to catch a dog. While technically catching stray dogs and cats are a big part of what we do, the role of an Animal Protection Officer is much larger.

While we do chase dogs (and with better tools these days), we also cover vicious and unruly animals, barking disturbances, animals not licensed or vaccinated, possible animal cruelty and assisting with other various animal-related problems. We could be impounding a dog that was running loose one moment, then tracking down an owner of a dog left in a car on a hot day the next. Animal Protection Officers educate the public on all aspects of keeping their pets safe and being good neighbors, they can remove a rattlesnake from a garage, and evacuate animals from a wildfire; all within the course of a few hours. Another part of what we do, that people may not realize is we investigate animal cruelty on large animals, such as horses. Horse cruelty investigations are a vast part of what we do in the winter months when the grass becomes dormant.

Our department consists of 6 Animal Protection Officers and 1 Director. We all come from various backgrounds, have had different experiences and gained knowledge through those. Our officers go through an internal training program, as well as many external trainings. We strive to be the best and most well trained department for the people, and animals in our community.