

**OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
REQUEST REFERRAL
POLICY AND PROCEDURES**



REFERRAL GUIDE

2.1 Livestock or Farm Equipment Theft

-
Calls involving livestock or farm equipment theft should be referred to the appropriate County Sheriff's Office from the list provided in Appendix A. Additionally, a copy of the Referral and Follow-up Form should be supplied to either the Supervisor of ODA's Agriculture Investigative Unit or the Director of the Legal Services Division.

2.2 Dead Animals / Animal Carcass Disposal

Questions regarding animal carcass disposal should be referred to the Water Quality Division at 405-522-5492. General inquiries about dead animals, disease, and/or health concerns should be referred to the Animal Industry Division at 405-522-6133.

2.3 Animal Diseases

Calls pertaining to animal diseases should be referred to the Animal Industry Division at 405-522-6133.

2.4 Animal Damage

Inquiries about animals causing some type of damage to property or interference with business should be referred to Wildlife Services Division at 405-521-4039.

2.5 Wildlife

General questions regarding wildlife should be referred to the Wildlife Department at 405-521-3851.

2.6 Cruelty to Animals

All complaints pertaining to cruelty to animals or animal abuse should be referred to the appropriate County Sheriff's Office from the list in Appendix A. Additionally, the organizations in Appendix B address animal cruelty issues.

2.7 Rabies

All inquiries pertaining to rabies should be referred to Mike Crutcher at the Health Department -- 405-271-3266 or 405-271-5600.

2.8 Dog Kennels

Questions regarding licensing of dog kennels should be referred to Dr. Walt Christensen at USDA APHIS REAC, P.O. Box 6258, Fort Worth, TX 76115, phone number: 817-885-6923.

2.9 Food Safety

- General questions regarding food safety should be referred to the Food Safety Division at 405-522-6119.

2.10 Plant Diseases

- All inquiries relating to plant diseases should be referred to the Plant Industry and Consumer Services Division at 405-522-5971.

2.11 Open Range Information

Oklahoma is not an open range state. 4 O.S. § 98 2000 Supp. states that all domestic animals shall be restrained from running at large in the State of Oklahoma. The definition of “domestic animals” includes “cattle, horses, swine, sheep, goats, exotic livestock and all other animals not considered wild,” but does not include domestic house pets or feral hogs. This law went into effect on January 1, 1966. The entire text of Oklahoma’s Herd Law is contained in Chapter V of this policy.

2.12 Animals at Large & Vehicle Accident Information

In 1972, the Oklahoma Supreme Court stated that a person who strikes an animal at large must prove that the animal’s owner either intentionally let the animal loose or that the owner’s negligence allowed the animal to escape. The Court also stated that the fact that an animal is on the highway does not raise a presumption of negligence but that negligence must be shown by the facts and circumstances of the case. This ruling has been upheld in other Oklahoma Supreme Court cases.

2.13 Miscellaneous Numbers

Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners	405-524-9006
Horse Racing Commission	405-943-6472
Oklahoma Beef Industry Council	405-840-3777
Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association	405-235-4391
OSU Extension Office (OKC)	405-278-1125
Adopt-a-Horse	405-790-1009