

HAVERFORD TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS MANUAL		
Issue Date February 2021	Review Date February 2022	Directive Number 6.3.7
Accreditation Index:		Rescinds: Directive 6.3.7 of November 2019
Chapter: Six – General Procedures		Section: Three – Use of Force
Chief of Police: <i>John F. Viola</i>		

SUBJECT: USE OF TRANQUILIZER GUN

I. PURPOSE

The Department recognizes that animal emergencies sometime occur within the Township. These emergencies can consist of reports of vicious or sick animals, both domestic and wild, that may present possible serious dangers to the public. To effectively handle these types of concerns without the need to terminate the life of these animals, the Department shall have a tranquilizer gun available for such emergencies.

II. POLICY

The policy of the Department shall be that the tranquilizer gun shall be used only as a last resort. All other reasonable means shall be exhausted to capture the animal before the tranquilizer gun is employed. The behavior of the animal must present an eminent danger, or threat of bodily injury to persons to justify the use of the gun.

III. PROCEDURES

A. Storage

1. The Tranquilizer gun shall be stored in the Police Department gun locker in the Roll Room.
2. Access to this weapon shall be by an on Duty Supervisor.
3. The liquid animal tranquilizer and darts will be stored in a secure and banded lockbox that shall be maintained by the Animal Control Officer.

4. If the band on the lock box is broken, either intentionally or by accident, the Animal Control Officer shall notify the on duty supervisor and have it re-secured/ banded after use.
5. It shall be the on duty supervisor's responsibility to ensure the weapon is returned promptly after use and re-secured in the roll room gun locker.

B. Responsibilities

1. When the Animal Control Officer believes there is a need for the use of the tranquilizer gun he/she shall contact the on duty supervisor and advise them of the Animal Control Officer's belief that the tranquilizer gun is needed. If the supervisor agrees, he shall meet the Animal Control Officer at police headquarters to issue this equipment.
2. When the Animal Control Officer cannot leave the scene to respond to police headquarters for this equipment, the supervisor shall deliver it to the Animal Control Officer at the scene.
3. The supervisor shall assess the circumstances and the location of this incident to determine if the use of the tranquilizer gun is necessary and safe to use.
4. The primary responsibility for the discharge of the tranquilizer gun shall be the Animal Control Officer.
5. The Animal Control Officer shall generate an incident report documenting the incident.
6. The supervisor requesting the use of this equipment shall complete a supplemental summary to the incident report detailing who, what, when, why, and where this weapon was used.
7. When the Animal Control Officer is not available, and an emergency situation exists, the supervisor shall determine who shall use the tranquilizer gun.
8. **Extreme Caution Shall Be Used At All Times.**
 - a) The tranquilizer gun shall not be discharged in any situation where there is potential for any persons being struck by the dart.

C. Inventory Control

1. The animal tranquilizer should be considered a controlled substance and the inventory and documentation of that substance is required.

- a) The Animal Control Officer shall keep a running log documenting the date, time and band numbers used on the lock box.
- b) The Animal Control Officer shall keep a running log documenting the date, time, incident number, and amount of tranquilizer used.
- c) The Divisional Commander that supervises the Animal Control Officer shall make a quarterly inspection of the band log, drug log, the liquid tranquilizer and the band on the lock box to ensure accountability.

BY ORDER OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE