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## **Personnel Training and Safety - Ballistic Protective Vests**

**Approved: 11/07/08**

### **Guideline Statement**

Animal Control Officers should be offered ballistic protective vests (commonly referred to as "bullet proof vests") as part of their standard equipment. Each ballistic vest should properly fit the individual officer, inspected and replaced in accordance with the manufacturer's recommended standards. Policies, procedures and guidelines for the use of ballistic vests should mirror local law enforcement agency standard operating procedures.

### **Basis for Guideline**

Animal Control Officers encounter individuals with the same or greater frequency than regular law enforcement officers. Some of these individuals engage in criminal activity, are armed and can present an immediate threat to officer safety.

The basis of the policy recognizes that many Animal Control Officers now deal with the same violent felons and armed criminals as other law enforcement officers. The number of assaults on Animal Control Officers has increased and officers have been shot and killed in the course of their duties.

### **Guideline Recommendation**

Animal Control Officers should be offered adequate personal protection gear that provides protection from the dangers and threats to their personal safety that they may encounter in their daily duties.

Animal Control Officers should not be given old, re-issued or re-used ballistic vests that are no longer certified to provide ballistic protection or do not provide ballistic protection due to improper fit.

Animal Control Officers should receive proper training and instruction on the care, maintenance and use of ballistic vests.

The foregoing Guideline has been affirmed as duly adopted by the NACA Board of Directors.

***John W. Mays***

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