



RYE POLICE DEPARTMENT

555 Washington Road Rye, New Hampshire 03870



Kevin Walsh
Chief of Police
www.ryepolice.us

Non-Emergency: (603) 964-5522
Business: (603) 964-7450
Fax: (603) 964-7458

To: Rye Select Board
From: Chief Kevin Walsh *KW*
Date: October 17, 2023
Re: Full-Time Animal Control Position Request

I have attended 2 meetings with the Select Board to review my request for the police department to have a full-time animal control officer (ACO) position. I want to inform the Board how the full-time ACO position improves police service to Rye citizens and visitors.

Evaluating service the police department provides to the community, the ACO position becoming full-time is needed. Animal calls for service calls continues to increase. Job specific knowledge, how to handle/manage wildlife and domestic animals is the expectations of the Rye community.

In July and August, Rye's population and call volume is larger than it is in winter months. However, the animal control calls and speeding complaints remain significant year-round.

January-March 2021:

Total Calls: 76

Calls Included: found dogs, complaints of dogs on private property, barking dog complaints, foxes, injured birds, installing signs, loose dogs, directed/foot patrols, missing dogs, man potentially poisoning dogs on the beach, injured porcupine, dog on beach complaints, seals, dog waste complaints, deer bone incident, aggressive dog complaint, raccoons, sick deer, deer struck by car, fisher cats, coyote, vicious dog, dog bite, dog neglect complaint, beaver, bat.

January-March 2022:

Total Calls: 129

Calls included: Directed/foot patrols, dog waste, found dogs, loose dogs, dog summons, missing dogs, deer struck by car, found cat, pigeons, missing cat, injured deer, sick rabbit, bobcat, seals, sea birds, dog locked in car, deceased deer, deceased turkey, deceased rabbit, dog barking complaint, report of dog not being treated well.

January-March 2023:

Total Calls: 90

Calls Included: foxes, found dogs, directed/foot patrols, dog/neighbor issue, Salty Paws harassment issue, cat struck by vehicle, missing dogs, loose dogs, bats, injured red tail hawk, dog bites, barking complaints, loose horse and pony, report of injured/aggressive dog, dog summons, dog not under control complaint, skunk, raccoon, removed stray cats from under a house, injured bird trapped in house, injured seagulls, orphaned baby squirrels, hawk released from being tangled in bush netting.

This does not include administrative activities.

The number one complaint the Town of Rye receives from Rye residents is poor driving behavior. The ACO position handles animal calls for service while the on-duty officer prioritizes motor vehicle patrols. The ACO full-time position increases motor vehicle enforcement, awareness, and safety.

In July of 2023 police officers stopped approximately 26 motor vehicles and were on 5 directed patrols at the same time the ACO responded to 22 ACO calls for service. In August of 2023 police officers stopped approximately 27 motor vehicles and were on 4 directed patrols while ACO responded to 22 ACO calls for service.

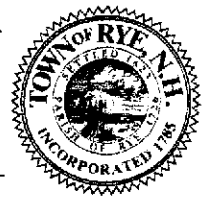
I appreciate the time the Board meeting with me. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Cc: Town Administrator Matt Scruton
Assistant Town Administrator Becky Bergeron



RYE POLICE DEPARTMENT

555 Washington Road Rye, New Hampshire 03870



Kevin Walsh
Chief of Police
www.ryepolice.us

Non-Emergency: (603) 964-5522
Business: (603) 964-7450
Fax: (603) 964-7458

To: Town Administrator Matt Scruton and Assistant Town Administrator Becky Bergeron
From: Chief Kevin Walsh *KW*
Date: August 22, 2023
Re: Animal Control Full-Time Position Request for 2024 Budget Requests

The budget goal is to match the requested services and to be proactive.

Year 2018	Year 2019	Year 2020	Year 2021
ACO calls 559	ACO Calls 395	ACO Calls 243	ACO Calls 567
ACO beach calls 127	ACO Beach Calls 109	ACO Beach Calls 85	ACO Beach Calls 202
Year 2022	Year 2023 as of 08/22/2023		
ACO Calls 359	ACO Calls 369		
ACO Patrols 98	ACO Patrols 84		
ACO Beach Calls 135	ACO Beach Calls 91		

In the year 2022 ACO Post started a new category in calls for service to document the publics request for animal control service.

ACO calls is when a person calls about a loose dog, dog bite animal complaints for vicious dogs, barking dog, injured animal, questions about wildlife or farm animals. The department has had an increase in calls for bats in private homes. It is recommended by State Health is a bat is in a private home the bat be tested. This requires expiring the bat and transporting to state lab. This is an example of keeping police officers in town and in neighborhoods.

ACO Patrols, proactive patrols on town property, Town Forest, Cemetery, Goss farm, State Parks, Parsons Field, filling dog waste dispenser.

ACO Beach Patrols, proactive patrols on the beach. Ensuring dog owners are following hours during summer. Year round ensuring dogs under control. The patrols reinforce the dog hour signs have merit. An example ACO Post was at Walls Road Ext after 9:00 AM. A vehicle parked drive and dog got out, saw ACO Post went back to car and left. ACO also fills dog waste dispensers approximately 14.

Proactive patrols have cut down the hour's officers are dispatched to a location for an animal complaint or injured animal. The call for service handled by the ACO allows patrol officers to stay in the sector of town to be proactive looking for motor vehicle violations. This allows the police department to reinforce the best course of action to change motorists' behavior which is regular, random visibility of the Rye police with enforcement action as needed. The appearance of officers and the cruisers in the neighborhoods make people feel safe.

Attached is a report ACO Kacie Post submitted for half the year 2023. The retention and recruitment for the ACO position is critical for education, awareness, and enforcement of the Rye dog and wildlife program. 100% the ACO has kept officers on the road and enforcing rules of the road and encouraged voluntary compliance with current Town of Rye ordinances with animals. Attached is ACO Post's half year report.



RYE POLICE DEPARTMENT

555 Washington Road Rye, New Hampshire 03870



Kevin Walsh
Chief of Police
www.ryepolice.us

Non-Emergency: (603) 964-5522
Business: (603) 964-7450
Fax: (603) 964-7458

To: Chief Walsh
From Animal Control Officer Kacie Post
Date: July 24, 2023
Re: Animal Control Position

During my first year as ACO (start date: April of 2022), I've gained an understanding of the town dynamics as they relate to dog ordinances and wildlife rescue. As a whole, I would describe the collective attitude of the people of Rye towards animals as compassionate. I've already met many residents who have shown interest in local wildlife by calling to make reports, often out of concern for an animal's safety or well-being. In the short time that I've been involved, I've already received calls involving, but not limited to, the following species: dogs, cats, owls, rabbits, groundhogs, loons, seals, cardinals, seagulls, eiders, bats, bald eagles, blackbirds, crows, deer, raccoons, hawks, turtles and coyotes.

While I believe the existing program has been drastically improved in recent years, I am currently working on further improving the following areas:

- **Beach Ordinances-** I understand that dogs on the beaches and in state parks when they're not permitted has been a constant battle over the years. While regular patrols when dogs are not allowed are imperative, I've also found that patrolling the beaches in the early morning, when dogs are allowed, to be extremely helpful. This has become part of my routine, as it allows me to become familiar with the residents and the dogs. While they're getting to know me in a positive way, my presence is also a reminder that they need to be mindful of their dogs, and be off the beaches by a certain time. When I enter the beach, I often see dog walkers checking their watches. This also allows for the opportunity for dog owners to ask questions and clarification on rules, which many often take advantage of. Many residents know me by name now, are happy to greet me.
- **Dog Waste Bags-** In order to alleviate one of the duties of the Highway Department, I've been tasked with refilling the 14 dog waste bag dispensers, which are located along the town beach entrances. These are checked/changed regularly. The bags are frequently used, which contributes to keeping dog waste off of the beaches. Residents who use them regularly often thank me when they notice me refilling the stations. This task does require consistent time and attention, but it is an accommodation the residents have grown to expect.
- **Community Outreach-** I believe in the importance of community outreach in order to build awareness and support for the program. I've conducted 2 presentations at the New Hampshire SPCA Learning Center, for teenagers involved with the summer camp. I've also continued to build community support virtually via social media (Facebook & Instagram). Most importantly, I continue to build and maintain relationships with outside agencies such as: Department of Agriculture, Fish & Game, Center for Wildlife, local rehabilitators, State Park employees, NHSPCA, ACOANH etc.

- Community Presence- I've noticed that the more patrols I conduct, the less of an overall issue there has been with dogs on the beaches and in state parks when not allowed. Although signage is ample, people often ignore them until they enter the park, see me, and then immediately turn around and exit the park. I am also an additional set of eyes for the Police Department, as people often ask me about various rules. I often assist with parking enforcement as well by writing tickets for violations.
- Certification- I've completed a course through NACA and have obtained a nationally recognized certification as an ACO. I am also a member of the Animal Control Officers Association of New Hampshire, and attend meetings and trainings through the association, and network with ACOs throughout New England.
- Officer Resources- I've developed and maintained numerous protocols and resources for the Police Department, which protect the town from liabilities, zoonotic diseases, and handling animals inappropriately/dangerously. Ex/ binder of resources & forms, rabies protocols w/ emphasis on bats, what to do with orphaned animals, vicious dog protocol, etc.
- I provide an additional asset to the Police Department because I have obtained a Flagger certification, and am now able to assist with traffic in emergency situations. Ex/ directing traffic during extreme floods this past December.
- Updating Supplies/Humane Euthanasia Methods- I've acquired equipment necessary for safety, as well as animal friendly sanitization, and continue to work on solutions in order to perform euthanasias as humanely as possible, so that officers may not be called to respond for assistance and discharge their firearms. I've minimized the need for officer assistance with euthanasia by securing an agreement with a local veterinarian who is contracted with the town to perform euthanasia and disposal of animals, when that is believed to be the most humane option
- 'Geoteamz'- I've updated Geoteamz by adding caution notices to addresses who have dogs with a bite history. This protects officers and Fire Dept by alerting them of a potential vicious dog before they enter a home or property. Notes on each flagged house details the circumstances of the previous bite, to include what may trigger the dog (resource guarding, touch sensitivity, etc). The application will continue to be updated as new cases arise.
- I have taken on additional roles within the police department. The evidence technician position has multitasked job responsibilities to include the transfer, handling and storage of evidence and property taken by the Rye Police Department for any purpose. This allows police officers to be freed up from these administrative tasks. Duties also include more time-consuming responsibilities, such as transferring evidence to State Lab and returned to police department, and annual inventory for accreditation. Property review requires weekly attention.
- I am adding to Kacie's job task for Evidence Technician. This will take hours of administrative time from a patrol officer and in turn, allow the police officers to be on the road more.

In conclusion, I am very much enjoying getting to know all of the people and animals of Rye, and am looking forward to improving the animal control program in order to better serve the community.

Kacie Post
7/24/2023

2024 Animal Control Budget

01-4414-38-515 Animal Care

- Fees for boarding an animal at the SPCA or at a private animal hospital. \$75.00 to \$175.00 per animal. \$325.00 in 2023
- Past years dog biting a human, no proof of rabies, must be quarantined 10 days.
- Euthanize an animal for humanitarian reasons.

\$500.00 same as last year

01-4414-38-679 Equipment Purchases

- Uniforms for animal control officer
- Cages, catch polls, gloves, disposable blankets.

\$300.00 same as last year

No fuel and maintenance costs, police department budget absorbs fuel for mopeds and vehicle used in poor weather conditions.