
DOG LAW

Purdon's Pennsylvania Statutes and Consolidated Statutes. Title 3. Agriculture. Chapter 8. Dogs. Dog Law

§ 459-102. Definitions

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“Police officer.” Any person employed or elected by this Commonwealth, or by any municipality and whose duty it is to preserve peace or to make arrests or to enforce the law. The term includes **constables** and dog, game, fish and forest wardens.

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§ 459-302. Seizure and detention of dogs; costs; destruction of dogs

(a) General rule.--**It shall be the duty of every police officer**, State dog warden, employee of the department or animal control officer to seize and detain any dog which is found running at large, either upon the public streets or highways of the Commonwealth, or upon the property of a person other than the owner of the dog, and unaccompanied by the owner or keeper. **Every police officer**, State dog warden, employee of the department or animal control officer may humanely kill any dog which is found running at large and is deemed after due consideration by the **police officer**, State dog warden, employee of the department or animal control officer to constitute a threat to the public health and welfare.

(b) Licensed dogs.--The State dog warden or employee of the department, the animal control officer, or the chief of police or his agents of any city, borough, town or township, the **constable** of any borough and the **constable** of any incorporated town or township shall cause any dog bearing a proper license tag or permanent identification and so seized and detained to be properly kept and fed at any licensed kennel approved by the secretary for those purposes and shall cause immediate notice, by personal service or registered or certified mail with return receipt requested, to the last known address, which shall be set forth in the license application record, of the person in whose name the license was procured, or his agent, to claim the dog within five days after receipt thereof. The owner or claimant of a dog so detained shall pay a penalty of \$50 to the political subdivision whose police officers make the seizures and detention and all reasonable expenses incurred by reason of its detention to the detaining parties before the dog is returned. If five days after obtaining the postal return receipt, the dog has not been claimed, such chief of police, or his agent, or a **constable**, or State dog warden or employee of the department shall dispense the dog by sale or by giving it to a humane society or association for the prevention of cruelty to animals. No dog so caught and detained shall be sold for the purpose of vivisection, or research, or be conveyed in any manner for these purposes. All moneys derived from the sale of the dog, after deducting the expenses of its detention, shall be paid through the Department of Agriculture to the State Treasurer for credit to the Dog Law Restricted Account.

234 Pa. Code Rule 103. Definitions.

PART A. Business of the Courts

Rule 103. Definitions.

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER is any person who is by law given the power to enforce the law when acting within the scope of that person's employment.

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POLICE OFFICER is any person who is by law given the power to arrest when acting within the scope of the person's employment.

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234 Pa. Code Rule 515. Execution of Arrest Warrant.

Rule 515. Execution of Arrest Warrant.

- (A) A warrant of arrest may be executed at any place within the Commonwealth.
- (B) A warrant of arrest shall be executed by a police officer.

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For the definition of police officer, see Rule 103.

Referral: Sec 234 Rule 103 – <https://www.pacodeandbulletin.gov/Display/pacode?file=/secure/pacode/data/234/chapter1/s103.html&d=reduce>

Sec 234 Rule 515 – <https://www.pacodeandbulletin.gov/Display/pacode?file=/secure/pacode/data/234/chapter5/s515.html>