



*Kern County Sheriff's Office*  
**Policies and Procedures**

<b>TITLE:</b> ANIMAL SNARE POLES		<b>NO:</b> H-1710	
<b>APPROVED:</b> Donny Youngblood, Sheriff-Coroner			
<b>EFFECTIVE:</b> September 1, 2004	<b>REVIEWED:</b> 10/22/2020	<b>REVISED:</b> 00/00/00	<b>UPDATED:</b> 1/19/2018

## **POLICY**

The Kern County Sheriff's Office recognizes that circumstances exist in which law enforcement officers respond to locations where they must deal with unconfined vicious animals or dangerous reptiles. In some of these situations, the vicious animal or reptile may pose a significant threat to the deputy or the public. The use of an animal snare pole may become necessary to prevent an animal from attacking a person or other animals. In vicious animal situations, an animal snare pole deployed by a trained, qualified deputy could be beneficial in defending the officer, as well as the public.

In order to meet these needs, the Kern County Sheriff's Office authorizes specified deputies to carry and utilize the animal snare pole. These deputies must first successfully complete a Sheriff's Office approved training course and receive approval from their division commander to carry a snare pole.

This section is not intended to restrict DPPM F-700-2; regarding the use of firearms in killing animals that are seriously injured or pose a real threat to the safety of humans when no other disposition is practical and safety of people has been given prime consideration.

## **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

Animal snare poles authorized by the Sheriff's Office are:

- All poles must be a five-foot-fixed length, have a main body constructed of aluminum or stainless steel, have an automatic-cable-locking mechanism, a quick-release knob, a swivel head, a braided-wire-rope cable, and hand grips.
- Replacement cables and replacement parts must meet or exceed the original equipment manufacture specifications for the five-foot-fixed pole or can be replaced with an original equipment manufacturer's cable made for the four-to-six-foot extension pole.

Authorized snare poles may be issued by the Sheriff's Office or privately owned by the deputy who is authorized to carry a snare pole.

- Privately owned snare poles must be inspected and approved by the deputy's division commander or designee.
- The Sheriff's Office assumes no liability for repairs made to, maintenance of, damage to, or loss of privately-owned snare poles.

## **PROCEDURE**

Any deputy who carries an animal snare pole, whether issued or privately owned, will complete an inspection of the snare pole after each deployment.

- Inspect the operation and condition of the snare pole;
  - If the snare pole is dirty or damaged the deputy will perform the necessary maintenance on the snare pole prior to putting it back into service.
  - The deputy will inspect the cable for bends, kinks, frays, or damage that would cause the pole to malfunction.
  - If the snare pole is unserviceable, the pole will be taken out of service immediately. If the snare pole is an issued snare pole, the deputy will report the condition to his division commander or designee and take the steps necessary to have the pole repaired. If the pole is privately owned, the deputy will have the necessary repairs made prior to putting it back into service.

Any deputy who carries a snare pole issued by the Sheriff's Office will take steps to ensure the pole is secured when not in use by keeping it in a locked patrol vehicle or in the locked trunk of a patrol vehicle. The deputy will also ensure the security of the snare pole when they are off duty by storing it in a Sheriff's Office facility, a locked patrol vehicle, or other locked and secured location.

## **DIRECTIVE**

A deputy may not carry an animal snare pole unless:

- The deputy's division commander or designee has so authorized;
- The deputy has successfully completed the Basic Animal Handling and Capture Course;
- The deputy has had the pole inspected by his division commander or designee.

H-1710-2

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