

CHAPTER 2
DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS AT ANIMALS
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CHAPTER 2
DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS AT ANIMALS

1. POLICY.

- a. An officer may discharge a firearm at an animal under the following conditions:
 - (1) In self-defense or to defend another person from serious bodily harm.
 - (2) When necessary to destroy a critically injured animal, provided such action can be accomplished with safety to persons and property.
 - (3) When necessary to destroy suspected rabid animals or animals attacking livestock.

- b. Shooting of Injured Animals. There are many instances when officers are confronted with unattended or injured animals that present serious traffic problems requiring prompt action. The shooting of an animal should be undertaken only as a last resort. The following steps shall be taken prior to shooting:
 - (1) A supervisor's approval to destroy the animal should be obtained with consideration of the geographical location and the officer's experience.
 - (2) If possible, the owner's permission to destroy the animal should be obtained.
 - (3) All bystanders must be protected by removal to a safe area behind the shooting officer.
 - (4) The area behind and to the sides of the animal should be protected in the event of overpenetration or ricochet of the bullet. The preferred method is to select a location which provides a dirt embankment or other suitable backstop.
 - (5) When shooting any animal in the head, the chances of ricochet are reduced when shot from a 90-degree angle at the point of entry.
 - (6) The skull structure of large animals is predominately thick. There are, however, limited areas where the skull is thin enough to permit bullet penetration.

- c. Target Areas for Shooting Animals.

- (1) Target areas are extremely small, approximately 1 inch in diameter, and require exceptional accuracy.
- (2) Except for swine, the most effective way to destroy an animal is to shoot it in the brain through the front of the head. The best alternative would be bullet entry from either side of the head.
- (3) Extreme caution must be used when the animal is standing to ensure obtaining a 90-degree angle shot and getting close enough for an accurate hit.
- (4) Extreme caution should be used when attempting to destroy a rabid animal. Attempts should be made to preserve the brain; therefore, the animal should not be destroyed by use of a head shot.

d. Head Shots.

(1) Shooting from the Front.

(a) Cattle. The target area of the thin portion of the skull plate is found by drawing imaginary lines between the eye and center of the opposite ear. The target is approximately 1 inch above the point where the lines cross and is about 1 1/2 inches in diameter. This area may also be identified by hair growing in all directions, commonly referred to as a "cowlick." (Refer to Annex A.)

(b) Swine. The suggested location is behind the ear because of the thick frontal skull plate. However, when it is necessary to shoot from the front, use the same procedure as described in paragraph 1.d.(1)(a) for cattle, except the target area is roughly 1 inch below the point where the lines cross. (Refer to Annex A.)

(2) Shooting from the Side.

(a) Cattle, Swine, Horses, and Deer. When it is necessary to shoot from the side, the shot should be placed at the rear portion of the ear. (Refer to Annex A.)

(b) Direct the path of the bullet toward the opposite eye.

(c) As an alternative method, direct the path of the bullet from behind the ear at a right angle to the spinal column in an attempt to sever the spinal cord.

- e. Heart Shots. Shots to the heart are to be used as a last resort, as there is a good possibility of ricochet from the shoulder and rib bones.
- f. Quarterly Review. This chapter shall be reviewed quarterly by all uniformed employees at the rank of sergeant and below.

2. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

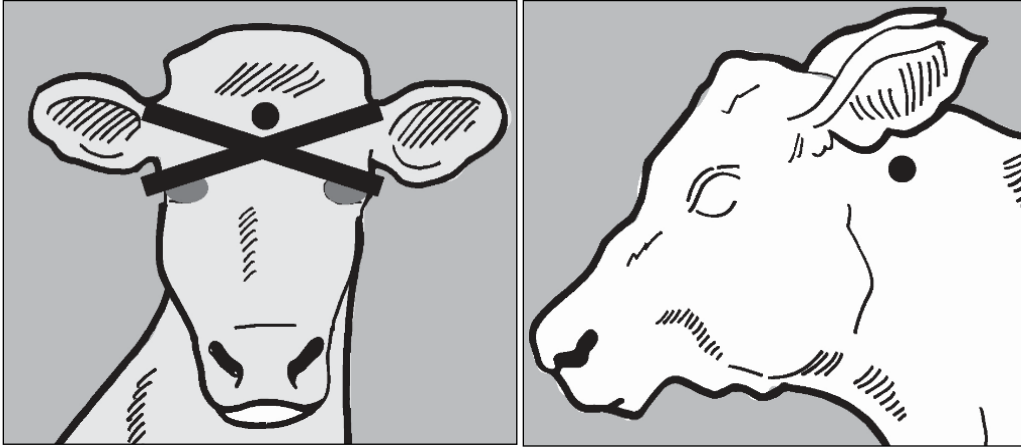
- a. In the event an animal is shot in accordance with policy, the officer shall submit a CHP 51, Memorandum, to their commander. The commander shall review the report to ensure the shooting was justified and accomplished with reasonable safety.
- b. Following the review, the CHP 51 shall be submitted to the appropriate Division where a file shall be maintained for the current year plus one year.

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ANNEX A

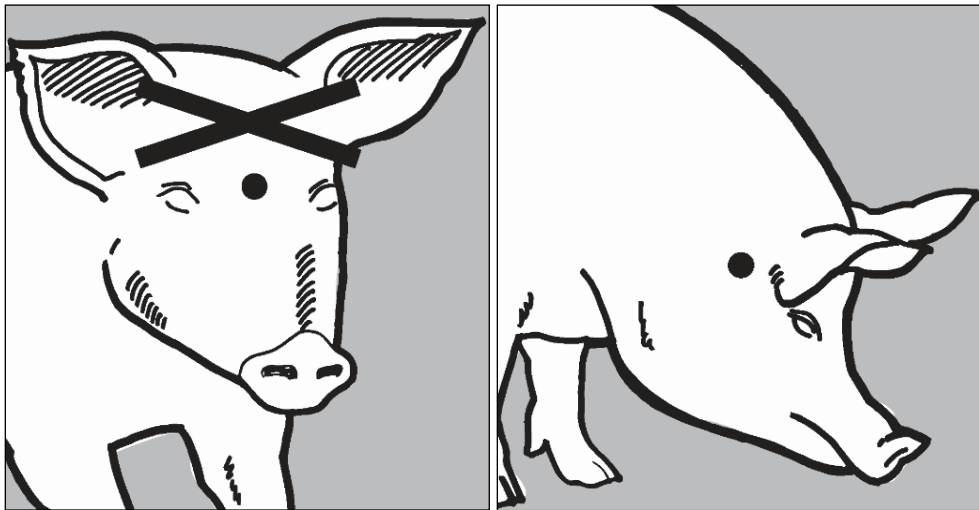
TARGET AREAS FOR SHOOTING ANIMALS

COW



One inch below where lines cross.

SWINE

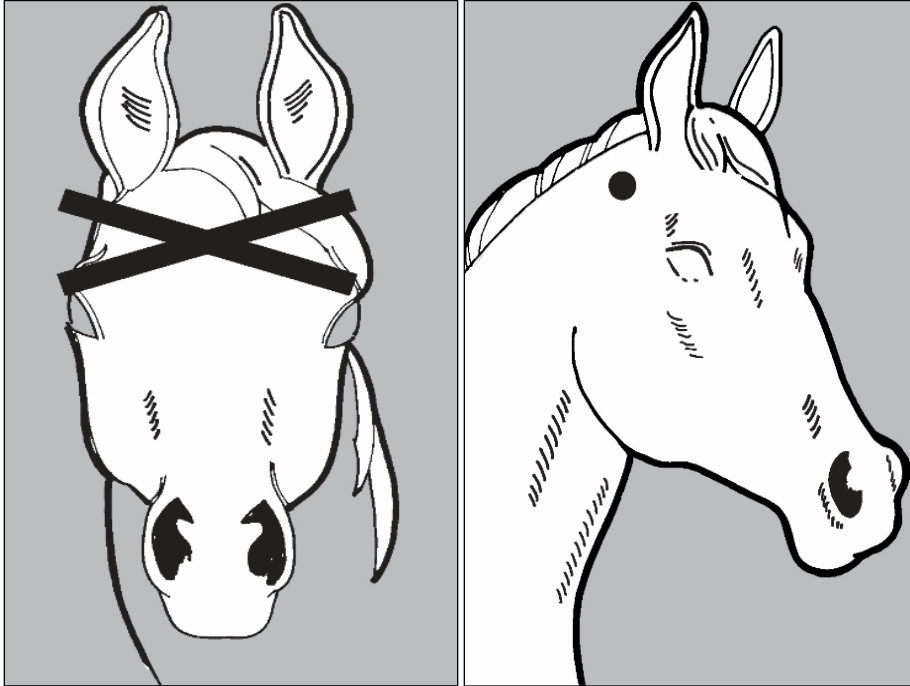


One inch below where lines cross.

ANNEX A

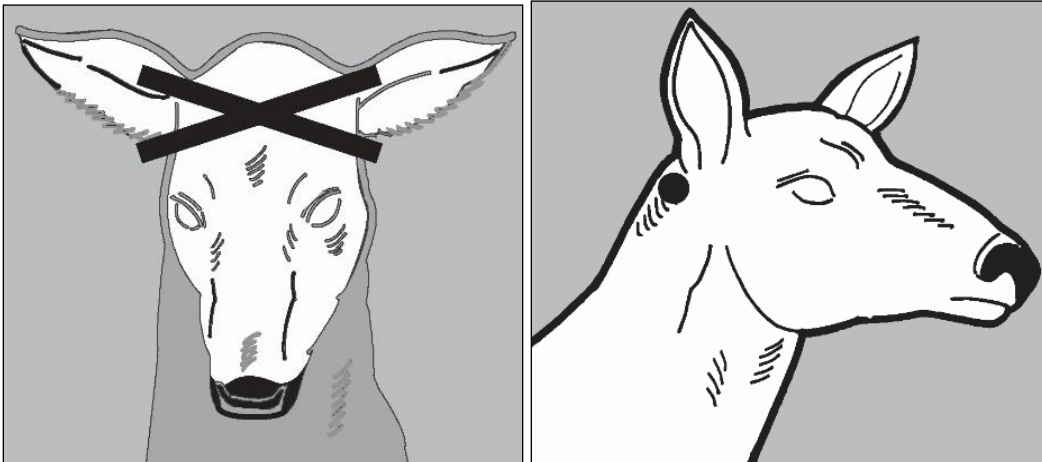
TARGET AREAS FOR SHOOTING ANIMALS (continued)

HORSE



Where lines cross.

DEER



Where lines cross.