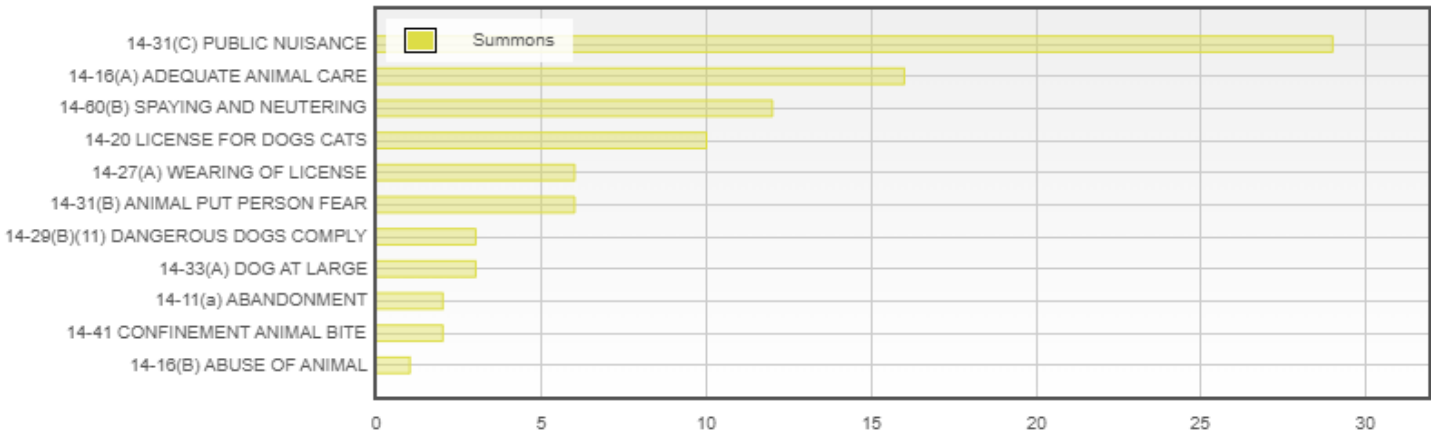


KCPP Animal Services Division Report for March 2025

Citations Issued / Enforcement

In March 2025, officers issued ninety-six (96) citations through the Thin Blue Line (TBL) system for review by the City Prosecutor. Prior to the issuance of citations, verbal and/or written warnings for violations may be presented by the officer, and citations are not submitted if compliance with animal ordinances are achieved within the given corrective action period.

Types of Municipal Citations Issued in March








Community Presence

Animal Services Officers had 7 patrol vehicles in use daily in March. Officially marked patrol vehicles spent 922 hours in the community and traveled 16,951 miles throughout the city, providing essential field services to the community.

Animal Services Division – Total Case Activities for March

Officers were dispatched to **1,764** activities in March 2025 (*a 6% decrease in calls from last month*) and were dispatched to **1,223** unique cases.

				
Calls from Residents Resulting in Cases	Online Reports Received by ASD	Case Follow Up Activities Performed	Total Case Activities for the Month	% of Calls resulting in Case Creation
1,223	76	541	1764	20.6%

Animal Services Dispatch – Call Center Metrics

During the hours of 7 AM – 10 PM every day, our Dispatch Specialists handle all incoming calls from residents through the City's 311 Call Center, direct calls to our Animal Services' Dispatch Team, and our after-hours phone queue. (They also receive reports from residents via email through our website). Each reported animal-related concern is documented by location, assigned based on priority, and logged by council district as well as zip code.

March 2025	Answered	Unanswered	Total Calls	Abandoned Rate %
IN > Dispatch – 311 Queue	11	2	13	15%
IN > Dispatch – Dispatch Q	2,112	111	2,223	5%
IN > Dispatch – Dispatch After Hours Q	308	22	330	7%
Dispatch INBOUND Performance	3,651	707	4,358	16%
Dispatch OUTBOUND Performance	862	216	1,078	N/A
Total Performance for March 2025	4,513	923	5,436	17%

Dispatch 311 Queue: Incoming calls from the KCMO 311 menu that are routed to KC Pet Project for animal control related issues.

Dispatch Queue: Calls received from residents who call us directly to report an animal control related issue or concern.

Dispatch After Hours Queue: Calls received between the hours of 7pm- 7am that are primarily answered by a designated "on-call" officer.

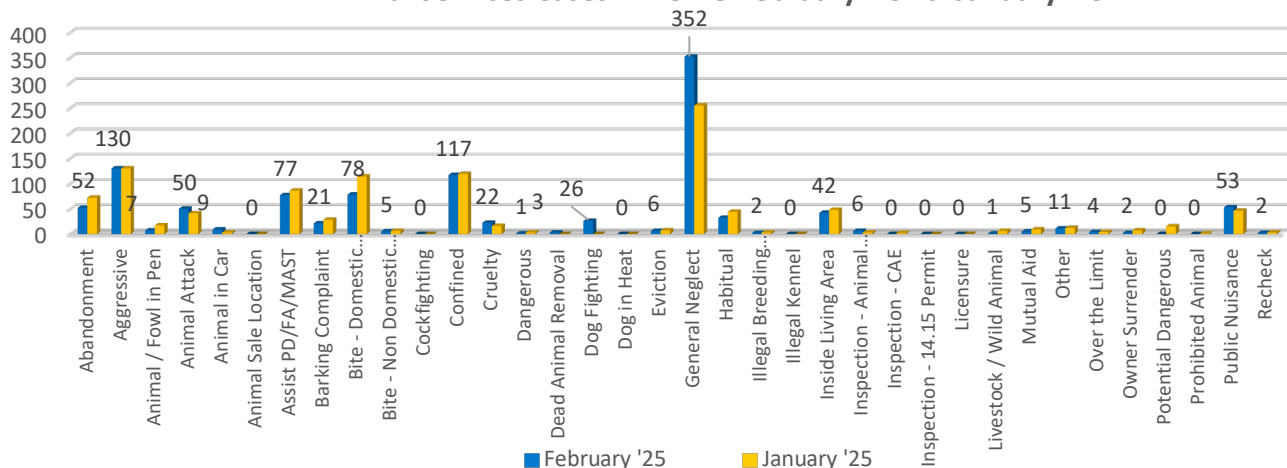
- ❖ Our Animal Services Dispatch team answered **3,651** live phone calls, completed **1,078** outbound calls, and resolved **113** voicemails.
- ❖ Dispatchers spent a total of **90 hours and 8 minutes** on the phone in the month of January
- ❖ Maintain an **average call wait time of 27 seconds** for the direct dispatch Queue.
- ❖ The Cruelty Tips Hotline received **6** calls in the month of March.
- ❖ In 2025, voicemails received by Animal Services Dispatch consisted of: and **19%** were stray roaming calls (*calls regarding stray animals roaming at-large and unconfined*), **16%** of resolved voicemails were Animal Services requests (*inquiries regarding ordinance, citations, and/or division complaints*), and **7%** were calls for case follow-up (*inquiries and repeat calls about active and/or closed animal services cases, or return calls requesting to speak to a specific officer*).

Total Cases by Sub-Type Responded in March 2025

Calls related to stray animals continue to comprise nearly half of our monthly call volume from residents.

Approximately **134** of the **593** stray/loose animal calls were related to public safety concerns, such as reports of aggressive dogs or animals in the roadway.

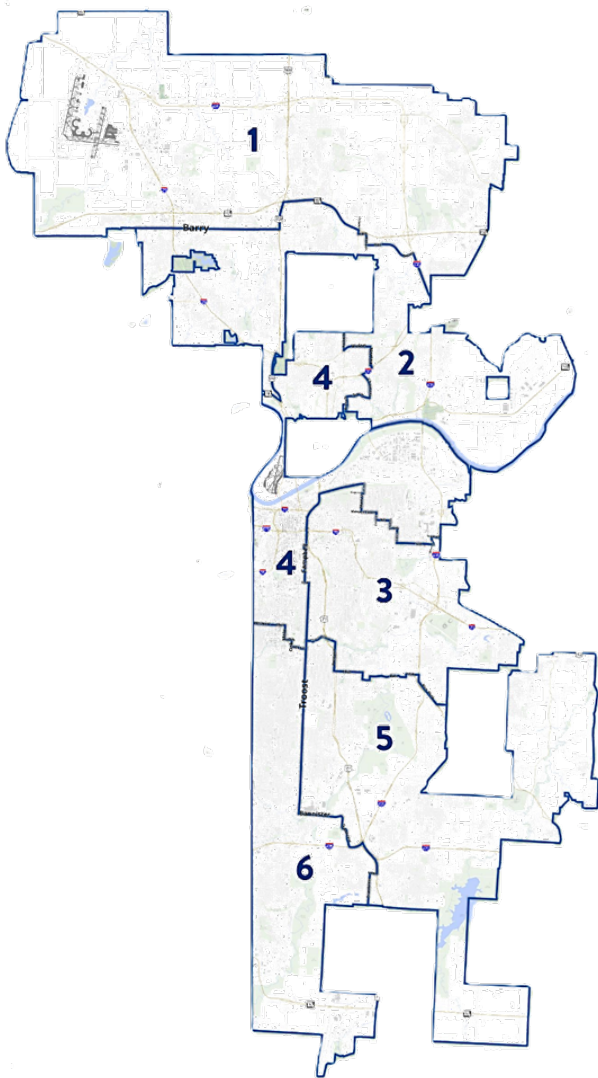
Animal Services Cases in KCMO February '25 vs. January '25



Directed Patrol Areas

Frequently, our Animal Services Division receives reports from residents of dogs habitually roaming a neighborhood or dogs that have become a public safety concern or nuisance problem for a specific neighborhood. However, many times officers are unable to locate the dog(s) when they arrive. To resolve ongoing cases of this nature and to provide continued enforcement efforts for these issues, directed patrols have been established whereby officers schedule frequent drive-bys through these specific areas looking for the dogs. The following locations are currently identified as **Directed Patrol Areas** where officers are looking for dogs reported as habitually roaming, public nuisances, or aggressive dogs:

<p><u>Council District 1 Areas:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ No Directed Patrols currently 	<p><u>Council District 2 Areas:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ No Directed Patrols currently
<p><u>Council District 3 Areas:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 3400 block of Bellefontaine Ave ✓ E 8th Street & Myrtle Ave ✓ 400 block of Bales Ave 	<p><u>Council District 4 Areas:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 600 block of Avenida Cesar E Chavez ✓ 500 block of N White Ave
<p><u>Council District 5 Areas:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ No Directed Patrols currently 	<p><u>Council District 6 Areas:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Ward Pkwy & Gregory Blvd ✓ Spruce Ave & Grandview Rd



Bites Investigated in March 2025

- Number of bites from dogs/cats occurring on their own property or inside a home: 58
- Number of bites from dogs/cats occurring off property, i.e., stray dogs at large: 28
- Number of bites from dogs/cats in which bite location is unclassified: 0
- A total of 11 bats were taken to Lakeside Nature Center for quarantine following potential, but not confirmed, exposure with individuals. Quarantining bats allows for them to be safely released at the conclusion of the quarantine (or when temperatures are warm enough) if no sign of infectious disease is discovered. The only current alternative to testing is euthanasia. Currently in the United States, less than half of 1% of bats carry rabies.

Dangerous Dog Investigations in March 2025

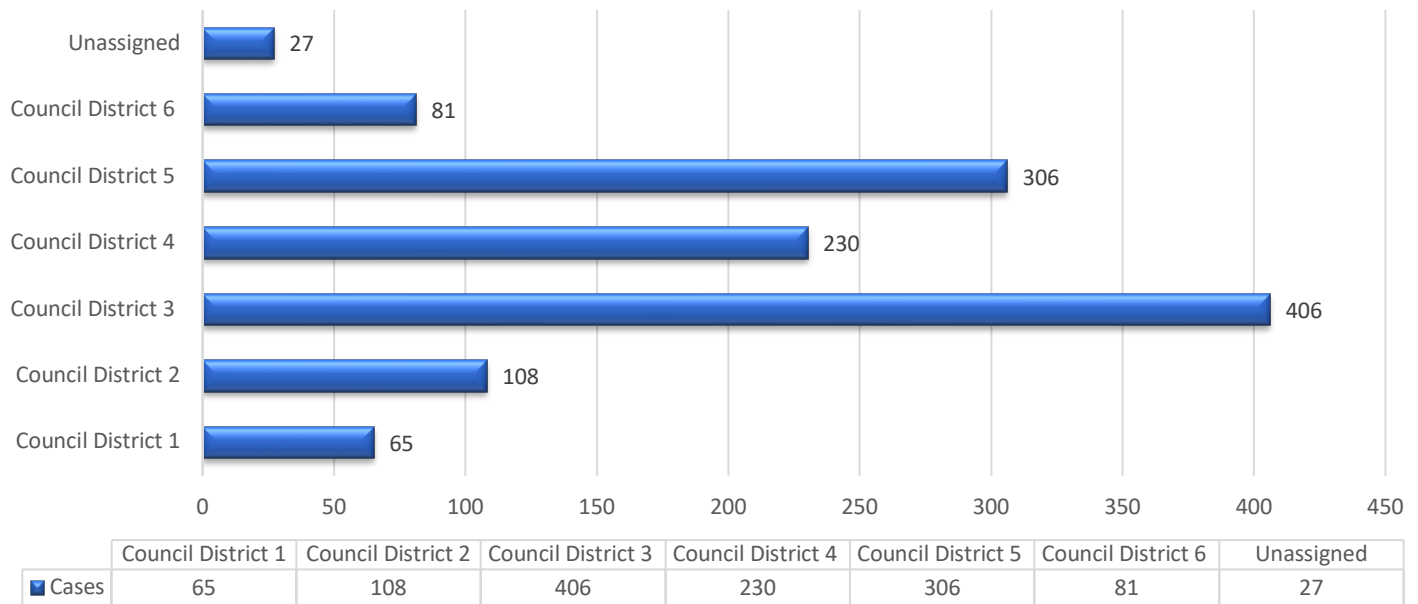
- Our office declared five (5) dogs as Potentially Dangerous Dogs and three (3) dogs as Dangerous Dogs for violations of Section 14-29 of the Code of City Ordinances.

- Five (5) citations were issued through the Municipal Court of Kansas City for failing to comply with Dangerous Dog orders. The owners who received these citations have mandatory court appearances.

Compliance / Inspections / Permits

In March, Compliance Officer Oertwig issued four (4) Animal Display Permit, eleven (11) Commercial Animal Establishment Permits, no domestic animal advocacy permits, and no Special Exception for Fowl or Small Animal Permits issued under Chapter 14-15 of the Kansas City municipal code of ordinances.

Total Number of Calls by City Council District for March 2025



Stories from Animal Services

Animal Abuse Prosecution – A Case Closed

In early 2024, the Cruelty Investigations Team of the KC Pet Project Animal Services Division began investigating multiple reports of animal abuse and neglect at a residence near Linwood Boulevard and Walrond Avenue in Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri.

Following a months-long investigation, officers impounded a juvenile dog known as “Scarface,” who was allegedly the victim of serious mistreatment. Evidence gathered during the investigation included a disturbing video showing the dog’s owner, Jawon Martin, repeatedly striking Scarface with a large stick until it broke. Martin was then seen choking the puppy with a collar and violently throwing him to the ground.

Based on this evidence, Martin was deemed an “Unfit Owner” under Section 14-5 of the Kansas City municipal code, and he was denied redemption of the animal. Multiple citations were issued in connection to the abuse.

Martin repeatedly delayed the legal process by failing to appear at scheduled court hearings, leading to bench warrants for his arrest. Eventually, in late February 2025, he appeared before the Circuit Court of Jackson County, Missouri,

Kansas City Municipal Division. He was found guilty of Failure to Provide Adequate Animal Care and guilty of Animal Abuse.

As a result, Martin was sentenced to two years of probation. During this period, he is prohibited from owning, keeping, harboring, or possessing any dogs. He must also comply with unannounced inspections by officers and must not violate any animal welfare ordinances. Any violation of the terms of his probation could result in jail time.

At KC Pet Project, we take cases of animal cruelty seriously. These investigations can be long and complex, but we remain committed to seeking justice for abused animals. Thanks to the tireless work of our Animal Services Officers, the Kansas City Police Department officers who ensured our safety during the impoundment, and the Kansas City Prosecutor's Office, we achieved one of convictions and took another step forward in our mission to protect vulnerable animals.

National Animal Cruelty Investigations School

During the week of March 17–21, Cruelty Investigations Manager Evan LaDue and Animal Cruelty Investigator Rylee Adams attended the Level 3: Expert Animal Cruelty Investigator certification course, hosted by the University of Missouri's Law Enforcement Training Institute. This intensive 40-hour program delivers advanced law enforcement training to peace officers, animal control officers, prosecutors, veterinarians, and other professionals nationwide and concludes with a rigorous competency-based exam.

We're proud to share that both Investigator LaDue and Investigator Adams successfully completed the course and earned their certifications as Expert Animal Cruelty Investigators. The training covered complex and challenging topics such as animal sexual abuse, ritualistic crimes, blood sports, hoarding, and more.

Animal Cruelty/Neglect/Abuse Cases Under Investigation

At the beginning of March, the Cruelty Investigations Team had **9** open animal cruelty cases under investigation (a 67% decrease from January 2025) that carried over from March.

- ✓ **6** reports of general neglect
- ✓ **1** reports of dog fighting
- ✓ **2** reports of abandonment

In March, the Cruelty Investigation Team closed **258** animal cruelty case activities for our community, including **32** reports of animal abandonment, **14** reports of cruelty, 1 report of dogfighting, and **211** reports of general neglect.

In March, the Cruelty Investigations Manager refused the redemption of 5 animals to owners for being "unfit owners" pursuant to Sec. 14-5 of the city code.

Case Results for March 2025





Results for Calls with Animals	March 2025	January 2025	% Change
Animals Impounded by Officers	295	341	14% decrease
Wildlife Relocated/Transferred Out	38	28	36% increase
Animals Returned Home by Officers	27	24	13% decrease

Twenty seven loose/lost animals (27 dogs) that could be returned in the field were reunited with their owners by officers, rather than impounding them at the shelter. This practice allows our officers to build trust-based relationships

with our community, keeps pets safe at home, and allows connections to resources if needed. Additionally, it preserves limited shelter resources for those animals truly in need of sheltering.

Reasons for Animals Impounded by Officers in March 2025

Animal Services Division Seizures/ Impounds	March'25	Janaury'25
Abandoned in Home/Yard	14	26
Bite Quarantine	14	15
Cruelty/Neglect	7	14
Death of Owner	11	3
Dead on Arrival	16	12
Evictions	5	9
Injured	1	0
Left in Car	0	0
Medical Emergency	11	6
Meet P.D./MAST/Fire	1	1
Other Ordinance Violation	0	1
Police Arrests	9	6
Sick	1	0
Signed Over by Owner in Field	15	38
Stray / At Large	190	210
Total Animals Impounded:	295	341

Impoundments by Species	
 Dogs: 250	 Cats: 41
 Bats: 1	 Chicken: 3

City Council District Overview for March 2025

Council District 1:

Total Unique Animal Services Cases in District: **65**
Zip code with greatest number of case activities: 64157
Stray/Animals at Large: 20
Cruelty Investigations/Neglect: 15
Dog/Cat Bites Investigated: 7
Other Services (Police/Fire/MAST/Evictions): 7

Council District 2:

Total Unique Animal Services Cases in District: **108**
Zip code with greatest number of case activities: 64151
Stray/Animals at Large: 45
Cruelty Investigations/Neglect: 21
Dog/Cat Bites Investigated: 5
Other Services (Police/Fire/MAST/Evictions): 8

Council District 3:

Total Unique Animal Services Cases in District: **406**
Zip code with greatest number of case activities: 64130
Stray/Animals at Large: 217
Cruelty Investigations/Neglect: 77
Dog/Cat Bites Investigated: 24
Other Services (Police/Fire/MAST/Evictions): 27

Unassigned:

Total Unique Animal Services Cases in District: **27**
Zip code with greatest number of case activities: N/A
Stray/Animals at Large: 12
Cruelty Investigations/Neglect: 0
Dog/Cat Bites Investigated: 2
Other Services (Police/Fire/MAST/Evictions): 6

Council District 4:

Total Unique Animal Services Cases in District: **230**
Zip code with greatest number of case activities: 64123
Stray/Animals at Large: 104
Cruelty Investigations/Neglect: 41
Dog/Cat Bites Investigated: 14
Other Services (Police/Fire/MAST/Evictions): 22

Council District 5:

Total Unique Animal Services Cases in District: **306**
Zip Code with greatest number of case activities: 64132
Stray/Animals at Large: 167
Cruelty Investigations/Neglect: 55
Dog/Cat Bites Investigated: 16
Other Services (Police/Fire/MAST/Evictions): 14

Council District 6:

Total Unique Animal Services Cases in District: **81**
Zip Code with greatest number of case activities: 64114
Stray/Animals at Large: 28
Cruelty Investigations/Neglect: 19
Dog/Cat Bites Investigated: 10
Other Services (Police/Fire/MAST/Evictions): 8

Note: Numbers shown above in each district for stray animals, cruelty investigations/neglect cases, dog bite investigations, and other services reflect some of the most common Animal Services case types reported last month in the districts.



Evan LaDue, Cruelty Investigations Manager, KC Pet Project