

Senate Bill 1 – Right to Carry for Dog Wardens

If approved, Genesee County Animal Control officers could be 'packing heat' for protection

<https://midmichigannow.com/news/local/if-approved-genesee-county-animal-control-officers-could-be-packing-heat-for-protection>

By: Alysia Burgio/Elise Dolinar

June 4, 2019

GENESEE COUNTY, Mich. - Armed animal control officers could be the new normal here in Genesee County.

Animal control officials say it would add a layer of protection for their officers when out in the community.

Director Paul Wallace says his officers deal with dangerous situations on a daily basis.

Sometimes that includes aggressive animals or even people drawing weapons on them.

He believes allowing his officers to carry a firearm would significantly decrease their chances of getting hurt on the job.

He estimates the cost of the firearms, along with ammunition, armor and training to cost roughly \$13,000.

It would come out of the Genesee County Animal Control budget from this year.

Wallace says until now, Genesee County Animal Control was lacking the funds needed for these guns.

He also says the only layer of protection his officers have are bulletproof vests, a crowbar, catch pole and tranquilizer dart gun.

"It's about the safety of the animal control officers. We run in to anything and everything you can think of on any given day and currently the officers are unarmed and have very little defense against anything. That could be anything from a 100 pound Rottweiler to an enraged homeowner and we run into it all the time," said Wallace.

Animal Control is meeting with the Genesee County Government Operations Committee on Wednesday at 9 a.m. to discuss the request for firearms.

At this point, it's unclear if a vote will be made to approve it.

We'll be sure to keep you updated with any new developments.

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Right to Carry for Dog Wardens

<https://www.huntingpa.com/threads/right-to-carry-for-dog-wardens.382699/>

By: Casey

February 28, 2026

In 2008, the General Assembly extensively amended the Dog Law (Act 225 of 1982) and while most of the provisions related to regulating newly-designated “commercial kennels,” an important aspect of enforcement power was also removed. Our Secretary of Agriculture used to have the discretion to authorize properly trained dog wardens to carry firearms. At this time, a dog warden may not carry, use or possess a stun gun or firearm in the performance of his or her duties. Dog wardens are law enforcement officers and may encounter dangerous situations where a stun gun or firearm is the best and safest means of protection.

With this in mind, I plan to re-introduce legislation to restore this authority to the Secretary of Agriculture. With the approval of the Secretary, dog wardens would have to have both proper certification and training in the use of stun guns and firearms in the performance of his or her duties.

Dog wardens regularly face very vicious, powerful animals. Please join me in supporting our dog wardens by giving them the protection they deserve!