

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Position: Animal Control Officer

Department: Police Department / Animal Control Services

Location: Taft Animal Control Facility, 501 Industrial Avenue, Taft, TX 78390

Reports to: Chief of Police

Status: Full-time, non-exempt

Opening date: 09/18/2026

Closing date: Open until filled

Summary

The City of Taft is seeking a dependable Animal Control Officer to protect public health and safety, enforce city animal ordinances and applicable Texas law, and provide humane care for animals at the City shelter. This is a field and facility position serving a small community of about 3,000 residents in San Patricio County.

Essential duties

Patrol assigned areas and respond to calls involving stray, injured, aggressive, confined, or deceased animals

Capture, restrain, transport, and impound animals using approved equipment and methods

Investigate animal bites, cruelty, neglect, and ordinance complaints; complete reports and issue warnings or citations

Enforce City of Taft animal ordinances and state laws on rabies control, licensing, dangerous animals, and animal welfare

Quarantine bite animals as required and work with local rabies control and health authorities

Care for animals in the City shelter: feeding, cleaning kennels, monitoring health, and maintaining a sanitary facility

Assist with adoptions, reclaims, foster/rescue placement, and public education on responsible pet ownership

Remove deceased animals from public rights-of-way and private property as assigned

Maintain accurate records, logs, photos, and evidence; testify in municipal court when needed

Operate and maintain City vehicles, radios, traps, and animal-handling equipment

Work with Taft Police Department, dispatch, Public Works, and partner agencies

Perform other related duties as assigned, including after-hours or weekend call-out as scheduled

Minimum qualifications

High school diploma or GED

Valid Texas driver license (or obtain within 90 days) with an acceptable driving record

Ability to obtain Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Basic Animal Control Officer certification within 12 months of hire (Texas Health & Safety Code Chapter 829)

Ability to obtain DSHS Certified Euthanasia Technician certification within 12 months if required by the City

Ability to work with dogs, cats, livestock, and wildlife in stressful conditions

Ability to lift and move animals and equipment (typically 50 pounds or more) and work outdoors in heat, cold, and rain

Must pass background check, driving record review, and pre-employment drug screen

Preferred qualifications

Prior animal control, shelter, veterinary clinic, livestock, or code enforcement experience

Current DSHS ACO and/or euthanasia certification

Bilingual (English/Spanish)

Experience with bite investigations, court testimony, or rescue/foster networks

Working conditions

Field and kennel work; exposure to animals that may bite, scratch, or carry disease; exposure to cleaning chemicals, weather, and deceased animals. May include evenings, weekends, holidays, and on-call rotation. Uniform and City vehicle provided.

Compensation and benefits

Salary: commensurate with experience.

Benefits include Texas Municipal Retirement System (TMRS), paid leave, holidays, and insurance as offered to full-time City employees.

How to apply

Submit a City of Taft employment application, résumé, and copy of driver license to:

City of Taft – Human Resources

230 Green Avenue

P.O. Box 416

Taft, TX 78390

Phone: (361) 528-3512

Email: citysecretary@tafttx.gov

Questions about the position may be directed to the Taft Police Department at (361) 528-6011 or chief@tafttx.gov. Animal Control facility phone: (361) 222-9110.

The City of Taft is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Employment is contingent on successful completion of required screening.