

Berkeley police kill more deer than any other animal

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A deer spotted in Berkeley. Photo: Keoki Seu

The Berkeley Police Department's [slaying of a mountain lion](#) last August and a [dog in April](#) drew criticism that the police were unnecessarily shooting animals.

The killings prompted the Berkeley Animal Care Commission to ask for a list of all the animals police officers have shot in the past five years. It turns out that police have shot more deer than anything else. Most of the time, those deer had been hit by cars. Police shot them to put them out of their misery.

In the past five years, according to a survey compiled by the BPD, Berkeley police officers have shot and killed 27 animals, including 19 deer, two dogs, one mountain lion, three opossum, and two raccoons.

“BPD officers do not like being in the position of having to dispatch animals and yet, it is occasionally a necessary part of our policing responsibilities,” Sgt. Mary Kusmiss said in distributing the list.

In early April, police responded to reports that a group of men were shooting off pistols in a back yard. When police arrived at the Shattuck Avenue home, it turned out that the men were shooting pellet guns. They were arrested, and, in the course of the investigation, police shot a pit bull that lunged at an officer. Many people were upset about the shooting because the dog’s owner – one of the men arrested – had pleaded to be allowed to secure his dog.

The Animal Care Commission voted at its April 20 meeting to request that the BPD get training from the SPCA on how to respond to animals. The BPD will review tapes of the SPCA’s workshops before deciding whether to use them, said Sgt. Kusmiss. Police [have already been watching](#) a DVD produced by the state Fish and Game Department.

The SPCA has worked with Oakland police [to help them better understand dog behavior](#), according to an article by the Daily Cal.

Here is the list of animals shot by Berkeley police in the last five years:

Date	Time	Location	Animal	Case #
9/20/06		0800 Marciel Rd., Castro Valley	Deer	n/a
1/26/07		0911 1 block Florida St.	Deer	07-4427
5/16/07		1320 1 block of Hill Rd.	Deer	07-25112
5/17/07		1200 Arlington/South Hampton	Deer	07-25306
5/30/07		0201 Hilgard/Euclid	Deer	07-27028
8/4/07		0727 1300 block of Grizzly Peak Blvd.	Deer	07-40544
10/21/08		1638 400 block of Vermont Ave.	Deer	08-53952
6/8/09		1210 500 block of Colusa Ave.	Deer	09-30171
6/28/09		0307 Grizzly Peak/Forest	Deer	09-34674
8/3/09		0834 Euclid/Ridge	Deer	09-42603
8/6/09		0213 800 block of Arlington Ave.	Deer	09-43255
9/25/09		1109 1600 block of Visalia Ave.	Deer	09-54622
11/9/09		2106 1000 block of Oxford St.	Deer	09-65005
11/25/09		1111 900 block of Grizzly Peak Blvd.	Deer	09-68446
12/24/09		0955 600 block of Vincente Ave	Deer	09-72399
4/7/10		1241 1300 block of Scenic Ave.	Deer	10-21359
7/19/10		0648 1100 block of Keith Ave.	Deer	10-43214
10/19/10		1806 1200 block of Monterey Ave.	Deer	10-63729
1/27/11		1542 1100 block of Grizzly Peak Blvd.	Deer	11-5323
<i>Subtotal</i>	19			
2/9/07		1049 700 block of Heinz St.	Dog	07-6950
4/2/11		1530 3200 block of Shattuck Ave.	Dog	11-18161
<i>Subtotal</i>	2			
9/1/10		0213 1600 block of Walnut St.	Mountain Lion	10-52785
<i>Subtotal</i>	1			
8/27/06		0710 1600 Block of Buena Ave	Opossum	06-43323
12/1/08		2216 1200 block of Blake St.	Opossum	08-62712
1/29/10		2307 1100 Carleton	Opossum	10-6376
<i>Subtotal</i>	3			
11/9/06		San Pablo Park	Raccoon	06-57255
3/8/07		1934 1200 block of Monterey Ave.	Raccoon	07-11881
<i>Subtotal</i>	2			
Total		27		