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**NEWS
RELEASE**

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State Law Expands Protections for Animal Protection Officers

EL PASO, Texas—A recent change to Texas’s “Move Over or Slow Down” law now provides additional protections for Animal Protection Officers and their vehicles.

The update, enacted September 1, 2025, was made possible through Senate Bill 305, passed earlier this year.

Previously, the law applied only to police officers, firefighters, ambulances, and tow truck drivers. It requires drivers to either slow down by 20 miles per hour below the posted speed limit or move one lane over when approaching a stopped emergency or first-responder vehicle. The change aims to create a safer buffer zone and reduce roadside accidents.

The amendment follows a tragic 2022 accident in Levelland, Texas, where two Animal Control Officers were killed while on duty.

“Animal Protection Officers provide a critical public safety service, often risking their lives on busy roads to rescue animals and clear roadways,” said Michael Wachsmann, Animal Services Deputy Director. “We’re grateful for these added protections that help safeguard our officers while they are out rescuing animals and enforcing proper animal welfare in our community.”

So far in 2025, El Paso Animal Services Animal Protection Officers have responded to more than 21,000 service calls. Residents are reminded to dial 311 to report animals in distress and to provide clear details about the animal and its location.

For more information about El Paso Animal Services or to learn how to support animals in need, visit www.ElPasoAnimalServices.org.

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Promoting **Transparent & Consistent Communication**
Among All Members of the Community

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