

Vicious Dog Ordinance

Options

- Considered a total ban of Pit Bull breed dogs
- Considered ways to revise the ordinance and increase public safety.

Pit Bull Ban

- Difficult for animal control to enforce
- Personnel would be diverted from enforcing the other laws and would be spending time trying to find the Pit Bull breed dogs
- Chances of success are not high
- Ban one type of dog and another vicious type of dog may take its place
- Not fair to those who are responsible owners

Ordinance Revision

- Addresses the issue in a direct manner
- Attempts to reduce number of bites
- Applies not only to pit bulls but all vicious dogs by breed or behavior

Definition of a Vicious Dog In City Ordinance

- Attacks a human or domestic animal one or more times
- Tendency or disposition to attack
- Snaps, bites or disposition to snap or bite
- Staffordshire terrier breed, American pit bull, American Staffordshire. Any dog which has the appearance and characteristics of being one of the above breeds

Vicious Dogs

- 465 is the number of Pit Bull dogs that the Clerk's office was aware of July 1, 2009
- 239 of those 465 are licensed by the City
- Of the 380 vicious dogs impounded in 2008, 371 were pit bulls
- In 2007 326 vicious dogs were impounded, 320 were pit bulls

Dog Bites

- Dog bites for 2006. Last year numbers kept.

<u>Top 5 breeds</u>	<u>Bites</u>	<u>Licensed</u>	<u>%</u>
• Labrador Retriever	56	2,244	2.5%
• Pit Bulls	43	151	28.5%
• German Shepherd	41	724	5.6%
• Boxer	22	336	6.5%
• Rottweiler	20	348	5.7%

Present Confinement Regulations

- Securely enclosed pen with key or combination lock
- Secure house
- Pen must have a six foot fence, secure top, sides embedded in the ground not less than two feet, or attached to a floor
- Cannot leave pen unless on a leash not longer than six feet and in control by someone 18 or older

Recommendations

- Inspect the confinement arrangement either by on-site inspection or with photographs after impoundment. Cost to owner.
- Require a basket muzzle on a vicious dog when off of owners property.
- If owner is a repeat offender with a vicious dog found running at large three or more times the owner cannot own any vicious dog for five years.

Recommendations Cont.

- Increase liability insurance from \$100,000 to \$300,000. Owner to provide proof of 12 months of insurance. Require insurance company to notify if cancelled for any reason.
- Require mandatory training of owner by the city's animal control contractor, cost covered by owner when not properly confined/leashed.
- Increase vicious dog license from \$15 for spayed/neutered and \$35 for not spayed to \$55.
- Require all vicious dogs to be microchipped before licensing, with cost covered by owner.

Recommendations Cont.

- The owner of a dog declared vicious because of behavior, but not under impoundment, would be required to attend a vicious dog ownership class, but if the owner does not complete the class the dog would be impounded and held for seven days and then destroyed in a humane manner.

Recommendations Cont.

- A dog already in impound would remain in impound until the owner completes the class and is issued a city pet license. If the owner does not make application to attend the class or complete the class the dog would be destroyed in a humane manner at the end of the period of impound.

Recommendations Cont.

- Collect animal shelter fees even if the owner does not reclaim their impounded vicious dog.
- Require a vicious dog owner to notify the City Clerk's Office of a change of insurance company or coverage and/or sale of dog and to provide proof of the name and address of new owner. These steps must be done within one business day of the occurrence.

Recommendations Cont.

- Require anyone owning an animal that bites a person and/or a domestic animal to provide their name, address and telephone number to the person that was bit and/or the owner of the domestic animal.
- Require the owner of an animal that bit to produce their animal to the chief humane officer or animal control for quarantine.
(Home or shelter for quarantine)

Cont'd

- Require a vicious dog owner to provide their insurance company name, policy number and a telephone contact number of their insurance company to the person bit or the owner of a domestic animal that was bit.
- Add to the dangerous animal definition, a vicious dog that is not properly confined or leashed and is involved in an unprovoked bite and causes death or serious injury requiring professional medical care to a person or domestic animal.

Questions?