

Article VII. Dangerous and Vicious Dogs

Sec. 4-70. Definitions.

As used in this Section through Section 4-75, inclusive, the following words and terms shall have the following meanings, unless the context shall indicate another or different meaning or intent:

“Animal Control Officer” means the person designated by the City who enforces the City’s animal control ordinances.

“Enclosure” means a fence or structure of at least six (6) feet in height, forming or causing an enclosure suitable to prevent the entry of young children, and suitable to humanely confine a dog with adequate exercise area, and posted with an appropriate warning sign, in conjunction with other measures which may be taken by the owner or keeper.

“Impounded” means taken into the custody of the Animal Control Officer or City Police Department.

“Person” means a natural person or any legal entity, including, but not limited to, a corporation, firm, partnership or trust.

“Vicious and dangerous dog” means:

1. Any dog that when unprovoked inflicts bites or attacks a human being or domestic animal either on public or, private property, or in a vicious or terrorizing manner, approaches any person in apparent attitude of attack upon the streets, sidewalks, or any public grounds or places;
2. Any dog with a known propensity, tendency or disposition to attack unprovoked, to cause injury or to otherwise endanger the safety of human beings or domestic animals;
3. Any dog which engages in, or is found to have been trained to engage in, exhibitions of dog fighting; or
4. Any dog at large found to attack, menace, chase, display threatening or aggressive behavior or otherwise threaten or endanger the safety of any domestic animal or person.

“Vicious and dangerous dog” does not mean:

1. Any dog that attacks or inflicts bites upon a trespasser in a fully enclosed building or fenced enclosure; or
2. Any dog used in the military or police if the bites or attack occurred while the dog was performing in that capacity. (Ord. 1984, 4/2/07)