

SHERBURNE COUNTY

NOTICE:

On 02/05/19, the Sherburne County Board of Commissioners by 4-0 vote adopted the following ordinance governing dangerous dogs, revoking all prior ordinances dealing with dangerous dogs (such ordinance being effective on publication):

AN ORDINANCE FOR DANGEROUS AND POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS DOGS IN SHERBURNE COUNTY

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Sherburne, State of Minnesota, does hereby establish and adopt this Ordinance establishing regulation and standards for the management of dangerous and potentially dangerous dogs pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Chapter 347.

SECTION 1 – PURPOSE AND INTENT

It is the intent of Sherburne County to protect the public against the health and safety risks posed by dangerous and potentially dangerous dogs. By their very nature, dogs classified as “dangerous” or “potentially dangerous” pose a direct threat to the people and other animals that live in the same community or may otherwise come into contact with them. The intent of this Ordinance is to govern and control dangerous and potentially dangerous dogs located within Sherburne County. This Ordinance uses the same framework as Minnesota Statutes Sections 347.50 – 565, which governs dangerous dogs. This Ordinance does not regulate, govern, or control dogs not considered dangerous or potentially dangerous, or otherwise impact the regulation and control of other animals, whether wild or domestic.

SECTION 2 – TITLE

This Ordinance shall be known as, and may be cited and referenced as, the “Sherburne County Dangerous and Potentially Dangerous Dog Ordinance;” and, when referred to herein, it shall be referenced to as “this Ordinance.”

SECTION 3 – VALIDITY

All sections and provisions of this Ordinance are deemed severable in nature. Should a court of competent jurisdiction declare any particular section or provision to be void, invalid, or unenforceable, that decision shall not affect the validity of this Ordinance as a whole nor be construed as a determination that any other section or provision is void, invalid, or unenforceable.

SECTION 4 – JURISDICTION

This Ordinance shall apply to all areas of the County of Sherburne; except this Ordinance does not apply to any dog used by Law Enforcement officials for police work, or any dog used by Military Personnel for military purposes.

SECTION 5 – INCORPORATION

This Ordinance expressly adopts and incorporates the provisions of Minnesota Statutes Sections 347.50 – 565. When the provisions of this Ordinance impose greater restrictions than those of any other statute, other ordinance, rule or regulation, the provisions of this Ordinance, the provision of such statute, other ordinance, rule or regulation shall be controlling.

SECTION 6 – DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this Ordinance, the terms defined in this section shall have the following meanings assigned to them:

(A) Animal Control Authority. “Animal Control Authority” shall mean the Sherburne County Sheriff, an agency of the state, County, or other governmental subdivision of the state which is responsible for animal control operations; or any Law Enforcement agent or other public official acting under their direction and control. Additionally, “Animal Control Authority” shall mean any individual, organization, partnership, or entity operating under contract to perform animal control operations pursuant to a written agreement authorized and approved by the Sherburne County Board of Commissioners, or any municipality or township located within Sherburne County.

(B) Board. “Board” shall mean the Sherburne County Board of Commissioners.

(C) County. “County” shall mean the County of Sherburne, a political subdivision of the State of Minnesota.

(D) Dangerous dog. “Dangerous dog” shall mean any dog that has:

(1) Without provocation, inflicted death, great bodily harm, substantial bodily harm, or permanent disfigurement to any person on public or private property; or

(2) Without provocation, engaged in any attack on any person under circumstances which indicated danger to personal safety; or

(3) Killed a domestic animal without provocation while off the owner’s property; or

(4) Bitten one (1) or more persons on two (2) or more separate occasions without provocation; or

(5) Been found to be potentially dangerous, and after the owner received notice or personal knowledge that the dog is potentially dangerous, the dog aggressively bites, attacks, or endangers the safety of a human being or domestic animal; or

(6) Been or will be used, trained, or encouraged to fight with another animal; or whose owner has in custody or possession any training apparatus, paraphernalia or drugs used to prepare such dog to be fought with another animal.

(E) Great bodily harm. “Great bodily harm” shall have the meaning given it under Minnesota Statutes Section 609.02, Subdivision 8.

(F) Hearing. “Hearing” shall mean a proceeding conducted by an impartial hearing officer in accordance with the requirements of this Ordinance.

(G) Hearing Officer. “Hearing Officer” shall mean a licensed doctor of veterinary medicine, or a qualified person trained in domestic animal husbandry, appointed by the Board to be an impartial decision maker.

(H) Killed. A dog “killed” or “kills” a human being or domestic animal if there was a direct causal connection between the act of the attacking dog and the death of the person or other animal. For domestic animals which were euthanized following such an attack, “killed” or “kills” shall mean the death was the direct and inescapable consequence of the attack, extensive veterinarian assistance would be futile, and the euthanasia merely hastened the inevitable death of the victim animal.

(I) Owner. “Owner” shall mean any person or persons, firm, corporation, association, organization, or department possessing, harboring, keeping, having an interest in, or having care, custody, or control of a dog. Any person keeping or harboring a dog for five (5) consecutive days shall, for the purposes of this Ordinance, be deemed to be an owner thereof.

(J) Potentially dangerous dog. “Potentially dangerous dog” shall mean any dog that has:

(1) When unprovoked, bitten a human or domestic animal on public or private property; or

(2) When unprovoked, chased or approached a person, including a person on a bicycle, upon the streets, sidewalks, or any public or private property, other than upon the dog owner’s property, in an apparent attitude of attack; or

(3) A known history or propensity, tendency, or disposition to attack while unprovoked, causing injury or otherwise threatening the safety of humans or domestic animals.

(K) Proper enclosure. “Proper enclosure” shall mean securely enclosed indoors, or in a securely enclosed and locked pen or structure outdoors, suitable to prevent the animal from escaping and providing the dog protection from the elements. A proper enclosure does not include a porch, patio, or any part of a house, garage, or other structure that would allow the dog to exit of its own volition, or any house or structure in which windows are open or in which door or window screens are the only obstacles that prevent the dog from exiting. Such enclosure shall not allow the egress of the animal in any manner without human assistance.

A pen or kennel, in order to qualify as a proper enclosure, shall meet the following minimum specifications:

(1) The overall floor size shall have a minimum area of thirty-two square feet (32 sq. ft.);

(2) Sidewalls shall have a minimum height of five feet (5 ft.) and be constructed of 11-gauge or heavier wire. Openings in the wire shall not exceed two inches (2 in.), support posts shall be one and one-quarter inch (1 1/4 in.) or larger steel pipe buried (18 in.) or more. When a concrete floor is not provided, the sidewalls shall be buried a minimum of eighteen inches (18 in.) into the ground;

(3) A cover over the entire pen or kennel shall be provided, constructed of the same gauge wire or heavier as the sidewalls and shall also have no openings in the wire greater than two inches (2 in.); and

(4) An entrance/exit gate shall be provided and be constructed of the same material as the sidewalls and shall also have no openings in the wire greater than two (2) inches. The gate shall be equipped with a device capable of being locked and shall be locked at all times when the animal is in the pen or kennel.

(L) Substantial Bodily Harm. “Substantial bodily harm” shall have the meaning given to it under Minnesota Statutes Section 609.02, Subdivision 7a.

(M) Unprovoked. “Unprovoked” or “without provocation” shall mean the condition in which the animal is not purposely excited, stimulated, agitated or disturbed. It shall be a rebuttable presumption that any attack on a child fourteen (14) years of age or younger shall be considered to be unprovoked unless the child is engaged in the commission of a crime or illegal activity, including activities classified under Minnesota Statute Chapter 343 as cruelty to animals.

SECTION 7 – DESIGNATION OF DANGEROUS DOGS OR POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS DOGS

Subsection 1: Designation

The Animal Control Authority or hearing officer shall designate any dog as a dangerous dog or potentially dangerous dog upon receiving evidence that the dog meets any of the criteria of applicable state law, or Section 6(D) or 6(J) of this Ordinance respectively. Subsection 2: Notice Upon a designation that a dog is dangerous or potentially dangerous, the Animal Control Authority shall provide a written Notice of Dangerous Dog or Potentially Dangerous Dog to the owner of record or, if none, to any person keeping or harboring such dog, by delivering or mailing the Notice or posting a copy of it at the place where the dog is kept, or by delivering it to a person residing on the property, and telephoning, if possible. Service upon any owner shall be effective as to all owners. The Notice shall state the following:

(1) A description of the dog deemed to be dangerous or potentially dangerous; the authority for and purpose of the designation and seizure (if applicable); the telephone number and contact person where the dog is kept (if applicable); the date, time, place, and circumstances under which the dog was designated; and

(2) The registration requirements and restrictions imposed upon a dangerous dog, and the restrictions imposed upon a potentially dangerous dog, under this Ordinance or Minnesota Statutes Chapter 347, and advise the owner that they must comply with the requirements or restrictions within fourteen (14) days of the notice; and

(3) Advise the owner(s) that they have the right to request a hearing before an impartial hearing officer to appeal the designation (and if applicable the seizure and prior potentially dangerous dog designations) within fourteen (14) days of the notice, and shall include a pre-printed form which the owner can use to request a hearing. The request for a hearing shall be made directly to the Animal Control Authority, and either a verbal or written request is sufficient. Failure to request a hearing within fourteen (14) days of the notice will terminate the owner’s right to a hearing under this Ordinance.

(4) Advise that if the hearing officer affirms the designation, or the owner did not request a hearing within the allotted time to appeal the designation, then the designation stands and the owner will be subject to all restrictions and requirements as set forth in this Ordinance within fourteen (14) days of the notice or fourteen (14) days of the written decision by the hearing officer.

(5) Advise that all actual costs of the care, keeping, and disposition of the dog are the responsibility of the person claiming an interest in the dog, except to the extent that a hearing officer finds that the seizure or impoundment was not substantially justified by law.

Subsection 3: Hearing

(1) If an owner, within fourteen (14) days of the date of the Notice, requests a hearing for determination as to the dangerous or potentially dangerous nature of the dog, the hearing shall be held before an impartial hearing officer not more than fourteen (14) days after the Animal Control Authority is notified of the owner’s request for a hearing. Any dog owner who requests such a hearing is liable to the County for all costs and expenses related to the hearing, up to a maximum of \$1,000. (2) Pending a hearing, the dog may be seized and kept at animal control unless the owner shows proof that the dog is properly licensed, if required; has met the requirement for rabies vaccinations; keeps the dog only in a proper enclosure unless restrained on a leash with a muzzle; and otherwise demonstrates to the Animal Control Authority that the dog, under its present circumstances, does not present an unreasonable risk of harm to persons or other domestic animals.

(3) The records of the Animal Control Authority, any police reports relating to an attack or bite, medical records, and all reliable hearsay shall be admissible for consideration by the hearing officer without further foundation.

(4) The Animal Control Authority shall be represented by the Sherburne County Attorney’s Office. The owner may be represented by private legal counsel, although the owner does not have the right to an attorney at public expense.

(5) At the hearing, both the owner and the Animal Control Authority may present the testimony of witnesses, cross-examine witnesses, and present documentary evidence. The Animal Control Authority, and the dog’s owner, may apply to the District Court for subpoenas for hearings.

(6) The burden of proof shall be upon the Animal Control Authority. The standard of proof shall be clear and convincing evidence if the Authority seeks to destroy the dog; in all other cases it shall be by a preponderance of the evidence.

(7) After considering all evidence pertaining to the dog, the hearing officer shall make such order as he/she deems proper, including ordering the Animal Control Authority to take the dog into custody, if the dog is not currently in custody, or to amend the designation. The hearing officer’s written decision shall be issued within ten (10) days of the hearing and served in person by registered mail upon the owner and the Animal Control Authority as soon as practical.

(8) Any person who fails or refuses to release a dog to the Animal Control Authority or Law Enforcement agent upon demand, or after it has been found by a hearing officer to be dangerous and ordered into custody, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

(9) Authority to order destruction of a dangerous dog. The hearing officer, upon finding that a dog is dangerous hereunder, is authorized to order, as part of the disposition of the case, that the dog be destroyed in a proper and humane manner by the animal control authority based on a written order containing findings of fact establishing that each of the following criteria are present:

(i) The dog is dangerous, as demonstrated by a vicious attack, an unprovoked attack, an attack without warning, or multiple attacks; and

(ii) The owner of the dog has demonstrated an inability or unwillingness to sufficiently control the dog in order to prevent injury to persons or other animals; and (iii) The owner cannot, will not, does not, or otherwise refuses to provide proof of the liability insurance for the dog as required by Section 8, Subsection 2(3) of this Ordinance.

(10) The written decision of the hearing officer is a quasi-judicial determination that is subject to review by writ of certiorari to the Minnesota Court of Appeals. Appeals of any decision made by the hearing officer shall be filed by a petition for a writ of certiorari to the Minnesota Court of Appeals and served on all parties not more than 30 days after the date the owner received the final decision.

(11) The owner or person claiming an interest in the dog is liable for all actual costs of care, keeping, and disposal of the dog, except to the extent that a court or hearing officer finds that the seizure or impoundment was not substantially justified by law. The costs must be paid in full, or a mutually satisfactory arrangement for payment must be made between the County and the person claiming an interest in the dog, before the dog is returned to the person.

Subsection 4: Exemption

A dog may not be declared dangerous or potentially dangerous if the threat, injury, or damage was sustained by a person who:

(1) Was committing, at the time, a willful trespass or other tort upon the premises occupied by the owner of the dog; or

(2) Was provoking, tormenting, abusing, or assaulting the dog or who can be shown to have repeatedly, in the past, provoked, tormented, abused, or assaulted the dog; or

(3) Was committing or attempting to commit a crime against the owner or the owner’s property.

Subsection 5: Review of designation

Beginning one year after a dog is declared a dangerous dog or potentially dangerous dog, an owner may request annually that the Animal Control Authority or the Hearing Officer review the designation. The owner must provide evidence that the dog’s behavior has changed due to the dog’s age, sterilization, environment, completion of obedience training that includes modification of aggressive behavior, or other factors. If the Animal Control Authority or Hearing Officer finds sufficient evidence that the dog’s behavior has changed, the Authority may rescind the dangerous dog or potentially dangerous dog designation. If a review of designation is before the Hearing Officer, the burden of proof shall be upon the dog’s owner and the standard of proof is clear and convincing evidence.

SECTION 8 – DANGEROUS DOGS; REGISTRATION.

Subsection 1: Registration

(1) For any dog determined or declared to be dangerous by operation of this Ordinance, state statute, court order, ordinance or regulation from another jurisdiction, or valid declaration from an Animal Control Authority, the dog shall, at all times during the dog’s life, be registered as a dangerous dog pursuant to this Ordinance, or state law, unless the designation is rescinded.

(2) No person may own or possess a dangerous dog in this County unless the dog is registered as provided in this Ordinance or applicable state law. All dogs deemed dangerous by the Animal Control Authority or hearing officer, as applicable, shall be registered as a dangerous dog with the Animal Control Authority within fourteen (14) days after the date the dog was so deemed.

Subsection 2: Registration requirements

The Animal Control Authority shall issue a Certificate of Registration to the owner of a dangerous dog only if the owner presents sufficient evidence that all of the following are met:

(1) Proper Enclosure: The owner provides and maintains a proper enclosure for the dangerous dog, as defined in Section 6(K) of this Ordinance; and

(2) Warning Signs: The owner posts clearly visible warning signs, understandable to children, that there is a dangerous dog on the property. These warning signs must be posted on the front and the rear of all buildings on the property and upon the proper enclosure for the dog. The County will charge the owner a reasonable fee to cover its administrative costs and the cost of the warning symbol. The warning signs must meet the requirements set forth in Minnesota Statute Section 347.51, subd. 2a; and

(3) Liability Insurance: The owner provides, and annually shows proof of general liability insurance prepaid in full in the minimum amount of five-hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000.00) per person and one-million dollars (\$1,000,000.00) per incident, payable to any person or persons injured by the dangerous dog; or a policy of liability insurance issued by an insurance company authorized to conduct business in this state in the amount of at least five-hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000.00) per person and one-million dollars (\$1,000,000.00) per incident insuring the owner for any personal injuries inflicted by the dangerous dog; and

(4) Annual Registration Fee: The owner pays the annual registration fee in addition to any regular dog licensing fees, to obtain a Certificate of Registration for a dangerous dog under this Section. This annual fee will be set by the County Board following a public hearing. In any amount not to exceed five-hundred dollars (\$500.00).

(5) Microchip: An identification microchip was implanted in the dog as required under Minnesota Statutes Section 347.515 and Section 11 of this Ordinance; and

(6) Sterilization: The owner shall sterilize the dog within thirty (30) days, at the owner’s expense.

(7) Lifetime License and Vaccinations: The dog must have a lifetime license, if required, and must be up to date on all vaccinations including rabies.

Subsection 3: Release

If a dangerous dog was impounded by the Animal Control Authority, upon order of a hearing officer, the dog shall not be released until the owner demonstrates to the Animal Control Authority that all applicable requirements of this Ordinance, including all registration requirements imposed by this Section or applicable state law, have been complied with. The owner shall have a maximum of fourteen (14) days after the designation is made to complete all requirements, excluding sterilization. The owner must pay the

County for all costs incurred in the seizure and boarding of the dog prior to its return.

Subsection 4: Revocation

(1) Any Certificate of Registration for a dangerous dog may be evoked, following hearing, if the owner fails to maintain compliance with any registration requirement, or fails to keep or maintain the dangerous dog as required by any provision of this Ordinance or applicable state law. The provisions of Sections 12 and 13 of this Ordinance, applicable to the seizure and disposition of dogs, shall apply.

(2) The Animal Control Authority shall serve upon the owner a written Notice setting forth the alleged reasons why the dog is not being kept in conformance with this Ordinance, and shall also notify the owner of the date, time, and location of the hearing. Any hearing to revoke a Certificate of Registration shall be held before a hearing officer within twenty (20) days of the date of the Notice and shall comply with all the requirements as set forth in Section 7, Subsection 3.

(3) If a dangerous dog Certificate of Registration is revoked following hearing, the hearing officer shall order the dog disposed of immediately or, in the alternative, permit the owner a reasonable time period, not to exceed fourteen (14) days, to obtain the dog if the owner is in compliance with all registration requirements.

Subsection 5: Registration renewal

An owner of a dangerous dog shall renew the registration of the dog annually until the dog is deceased, or the designation has been rescinded.

Subsection 6: Death or relocation of dangerous dog

An owner of a dangerous dog shall notify the Animal Control Authority, in writing, of the death of the dog, or if the dog relocates or transfers out of the County to a new location or new jurisdiction, within thirty (30) days of the death or relocation. An owner shall, if requested by the Animal Control Authority, execute an affidavit, under oath and penalty of perjury, setting forth either the circumstances of the dog’s death and disposition; or the complete name, address, and telephone number of the person to whom the dog was transferred.

Subsection 7: Sale or transfer of dangerous dogs

A person who sells or otherwise transfers ownership or control of a dangerous dog must notify any potential purchaser or transferee, prior to the consummation of the transaction, that the dog was previously designated as dangerous. The seller or transferor must also notify the Animal Control Authority, in writing, within thirty (30) days of the sale or transfer and provide the Animal Control Authority with the new owner’s name, address, and telephone number.

SECTION 9 – DANGEROUS DOGS; ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.

Subsection 1: Requirements

For any dog declared dangerous by operation of this Ordinance, state statute, court order, ordinance or regulation from another jurisdiction, or by operation of a declaration by an Animal Control Authority, the owner, in addition to complying with all the registration requirements set forth under Section 8 of this Ordinance, shall keep and maintain the dog pursuant to all requirements of this Section, all other provisions of this Ordinance, and all requirements of any applicable state statute.

Subsection 2: Restraint

An owner of a dangerous dog shall keep the dog, while on the owner’s property, in a proper enclosure as defined by Section 6(K) of this Ordinance. The dog shall, at all times, be kept in such proper enclosure unless the dog, at any and all times the dog is outside proper enclosure, is muzzled and restrained by a substantial chain or leash not to exceed six feet (6 ft.) in length and under the physical restraint of a responsible person eighteen (18) years of age or older. The muzzle, chain, and leash must all be of such a design, manufacture, and maintained in a condition that will prevent the dog from biting any person or animal, but that will not cause injury to the dog or interfere with its vision or respiration.

Subsection 3: Leased premises

A person who owns a dangerous or potentially dangerous dog and who rents property from another where the dog will reside shall disclose to the property owner prior to when the dog begins to reside on the property, or prior to entering the lease agreement, and at the time of any lease renewal, that the person owns a dangerous or potentially dangerous dog that will reside at the property.

Subsection 4: Tag

A dangerous dog registered under this section shall have a standardized, easily identifiable tag identifying the dog as dangerous and containing the uniform dangerous dog symbol, as developed by the Commissioner of Public Safety or the Animal Control Authority, affixed to the dog’s collar at all times.

Subsection 5: Property inspection

The owner of a dangerous dog shall permit the Animal Control Authority and/or Law Enforcement to enter the property where a dangerous dog is kept or located, at all hours reasonable under the circumstances, without a warrant or other advanced judicial process, to inspect to ensure compliance with the provisions of this Ordinance, applicable state statutes, order from a hearing officer, or directive from the Animal Control Authority. The failure of an owner to permit such inspection is, by itself, a ground to immediately seize the dog pursuant to Section 12 of this Ordinance and revoke the dangerous dog registration pursuant to Section 8, Subsection 4 of this Ordinance.

SECTION 10 – POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS DOGS; REQUIREMENTS.

Subsection 1: Microchipping

Any dog that has been determined to be potentially dangerous shall be microchipped in accordance with Section 11 of this Ordinance.

Subsection 2: Other restrictions

Any dog determined to be potentially dangerous may be subject to any or all of the following restrictions, as determined by the Animal Control Authority or the hearing officer:

(1) The owner of a dog may be required to complete an approved dog obedience class within a designated period of time, and provide proof of completion to the Animal Control Authority;

(2) The dog may be required to be kept in a proper enclosure, or restrained by chain or leash not to exceed six feet (6 ft.) in length, and/or muzzled, and under the control of a responsible person eighteen (18) years of age or older at all times it is outdoors and not inside a proper enclosure;

(3) The owner may be required to post the property where the dog resides with warning signs, readable to children, containing a written notice and warning that a potentially dangerous dog is present on the property. Such signs shall conform to the requirements set forth in Section 8, Subsection 2(2);

(4) The owner may be required to show proof of up-to-date rabies vaccination and, if required, licensing;

(5) The dog may be required to wear, at all times, a tag or marker identifying it as a potentially dangerous dog;

(6) The owner shall purchase a lifetime dog license, if required.

SECTION 11 – MICROCHIP IDENTIFICATION.

It shall be the responsibility of each owner of any dog kept or harbored within the County and determined to be a dangerous or potentially dangerous dog under this Ordinance, court order, state statute, designation from the Animal Control Authority, or a substantially similar ordinance from another jurisdiction, to ensure that a microchip is implanted in the dog for identification. The name of the microchip manufacturer and identification number of the microchip must be provided to the Animal Control Authority. If the microchip is not implanted by the owner, it may be implanted by a qualified veterinarian under the direction and control of the Animal Control Authority. In either case, all costs related to purchase and implantation of the microchip must be borne by the dog’s owner.

SECTION 12 – CONFISCATION.

Subsection 1: Seizure.

The Animal Control Authority shall immediately seize any dangerous dog or potentially dangerous dog if:

(1) After fourteen (14) days after the owner has notice that the dog is dangerous or potentially dangerous, the dog is not validly registered under this Ordinance or applicable state law; or

(2) After fourteen (14) days after the owner has notice that the dog is dangerous, the owner does not secure the proper liability insurance or surety coverage as required under this Ordinance; or

(3) The dog is not maintained in a proper enclosure, as defined in Section 6(K) of this Ordinance; or

(4) The dog is outside the proper enclosure and not under the proper physical restraint of a responsible person as required under this Ordinance or any applicable state law; or

(5) A dangerous dog is not sterilized within thirty (30) days of the designation; or

(6) The owner is served with written notice, by certified mail to the owner’s last known address, that the owner is in violation of any of the requirements of this Ordinance or any applicable state statute, or is in violation of any directive issued by the Animal Control Authority or order from a hearing officer; and, within fourteen (14) days of service of such written notice, has refused or failed to achieve satisfactory compliance; or

(7) The Animal Control Authority has reason to believe the dog is a dangerous or potentially dangerous dog, and is kept or maintained under conditions or circumstances creating an unacceptable risk of physical harm to persons or other domesticated animals; or

(8) For any other reason authorized by law.

Subsection 2: Additional dogs subject to seizure

(1) Any dog found to be in circumstances which to a reasonable person indicate that the dog has been or will be fought, trained, or encouraged to fight with another animal, or any animal whose owner has in custody or possession any training apparatus, paraphernalia or drugs used to prepare such dog to be fought with another animal, is hereby declared to be a public nuisance and shall be immediately seized and taken to the designated animal control center.

(2) Any dog may be seized and held to determine if rabid.

(3) Any dog may be seized and held if suspected of being feral.

(4) Any dog which meets the definitions found in Sections 6(D) or 6(J) may be seized and held at animal control pending a determination whether the animal is dangerous or potentially dangerous.

Subsection 3: Reclaiming dogs

A dog seized under this Ordinance may be released to the owner of the dog upon payment of impounding and boarding fees and presenting proof to the Animal Control Authority that all requirements of this Ordinance and state law have or will be met. A dog not reclaimed under this subdivision within fourteen (14) days may be disposed of in a proper and humane manner by the animal control authority as permitted by law, and the owner is liable to the Animal Control Authority for costs incurred in confining, impounding, and disposing of the dog.

Subsection 4: Subsequent offenses

If a person has been convicted of a misdemeanor for violating a provision of this Ordinance, and the person is charged with a subsequent violation relating to the same dog, the dog shall be seized by the Animal Control Authority. If the owner is convicted of the crime for which the dog was seized, the hearing officer may order that the dog be destroyed in a proper and humane manner and the owner pay the cost of confining and destroying the dog. If the person is not convicted of the crime for which the dog was seized, the owner may reclaim the dog upon payment to the Animal Control Authority of a fee for the care and boarding of the dog. If the dog is not reclaimed by the owner within fourteen (14) days after the owner has been notified that the dog may be reclaimed, the dog may be disposed of in a proper and humane manner by the animal control authority as permitted by law, and the owner is liable to the Animal Control Authority for the costs incurred in confining, impounding, and disposing of the dog.

SECTION 13 – DESTRUCTION OF DOGS IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.

Subsection 1: Upon death or inflection of harm

A dog may be destroyed in a proper and humane manner by the animal control officer after the owner has had the opportunity for a hearing before an impartial hearing officer, as set forth in this Ordinance, if the dog:

(1) Caused death or inflicted substantial or great bodily harm on a human on public or private property without provocation; or

(2) Inflicted multiple bites on a human on public or private property without provocation; but multiple human victims on public or private property in the same attack without provocation; or

(3) Bit a human on public or private property without provocation in an attack where more than one dog participated in the attack.

Subsection 2: Suffering beyond cure

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Ordinance, any dog taken into custody may be immediately disposed of when the dog is suffering and is beyond cure through reasonable care and treatment, upon a proper determination by a licensed doctor of veterinary medicine. The County shall recover from the dog’s owner all costs incurred under this section.

Subsection 3: Unclaimed dogs

At the expiration of the time a dog is impounded as provided for in this Ordinance, if the dog has not been reclaimed in accordance with the provisions hereof, it shall be the duty of the Animal Control Authority to cause such dog to be destroyed according to the most proper, humane and approved methods, or otherwise disposed of.

Subsection 4: Dogs actively attacking

Any person, including Law Enforcement and Animal Control Authorities, may kill a dog when that dog is in the physical and continuing act of attacking a person without provocation.

SECTION 14 – PENALTY.

(1) Any person who violates any provision of this Ordinance is guilty of a misdemeanor. Each day a violation occurs is a separate offense.

(2) It is a misdemeanor to remove a microchip from a dangerous or potentially dangerous dog; to fail to renew the registration of a dangerous dog; to fail to account for a dangerous dog’s death, transfer of ownership, or change of location where the dog will reside; to sign a false affidavit with respect to a dangerous dog’s death, transfer of ownership, or change of location where the dog will reside; or to fail to disclose ownership of a dangerous or potentially dangerous dog to a property owner from whom the person rents property.

SECTION 15 – DATE OF EFFECT