



NATIONAL ANIMAL
CARE & CONTROL ASSOCIATION

*The National Animal Care & Control Association
is committed to setting the standard of professionalism in animal welfare
and public safety through training, networking, and advocacy.*

Extended Animal Care & Control Concerns – Dangerous/Vicious Animals

Guideline Statement

Dangerous and/or vicious animals should be labeled as such as a result of their actions or behavior and not because of their breed.

Basis for Guideline

Any animal may exhibit aggressive behavior regardless of breed. Accurately identifying a specific animal's lineage for prosecution purposes may be extremely difficult. Additionally, breed specific legislation may create an undue burden to owners who otherwise have demonstrated proper pet management and responsibility.

Guideline Recommendation

An animal care and control agency is encouraged to have a dangerous/vicious dog ordinance. Mandatory micro-chipping for identification purposes should be a part of the ordinances.

Animal care and control agencies should encourage enactment and stringent enforcement of dangerous/vicious dog laws. When applicable, the agencies should not hesitate to prosecute owners for murder, manslaughter, or similar violations resulting from their animal's actions, and their owner's lack of responsibility. Laws should clearly define "dangerous" or "vicious", and provide for established penalties. Penalties may include fines, imprisonment, and/or the relinquishing of total privileges to pet ownership.

If a dangerous/vicious animal is allowed to be kept, laws should specify methods of secure confinement and control. A dangerous/vicious animal when kept outside should be confined in an escape-proof enclosure which is locked and secured on all six sides. Signs should be posted at property entrances and be visible from the nearest sidewalk or street. The licensing record could include a notation which will immediately identify an animal which has been deemed dangerous or vicious. Records should be kept on all dogs deemed dangerous/vicious. These records can include but not limited to: owner information, animal information, offense information and a recent picture of the animal.

The aforementioned Guideline has been affirmed as duly adopted by the NACA Board of Directors on September 03, 2014.

George W. Harding, IV MBA CAWA
Executive Director
National Animal Care & Control Association