

Dangerous Dog Investigations

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**Initial
Evaluation**



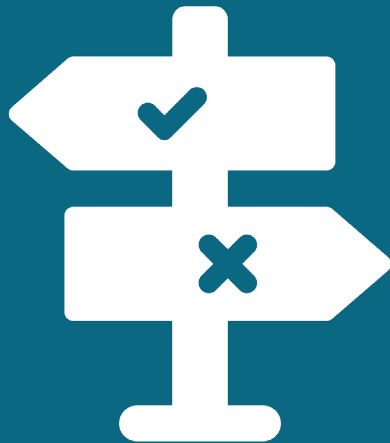
**Letter and
Survey**



**Meet the
dog**



**Dangerous
Animal
Meeting**



Determination



**Elected
Official
Notification**



**Confirm
Compliance**



Initial Evaluation

- We determine if an incident is a candidate for an investigation
- We evaluate the injuries the dog caused to determine severity
- If we think there is an immediate threat to the community, we can seize the dog until a determination has been made
- If the incident doesn't need a full investigation, we can send Dangerous Animal Warning Letter to the owners
- If a bite or attack is severe enough, we can start an investigation without sending a warning letter first



Letter and Survey

- We notify the dog owner of the investigation and provide them copies of the relevant ordinances
- We conduct a door-to-door canvas to ask neighbors about their experiences with the dog
 - We post letters on homes when no one answers the door.
- We then connect with the dog owner to tell them about the investigation (either by mail or in person)



Meeting the Dog

- We learn how bites or attacks are occurring and if the owners are willing and able to follow restrictions to prevent future incidents
- We take pictures of the dog, house and yard making sure to show any areas where the dog could escape
- We ask about the dog's history, behavior and any unreported incidents
- We inform owners that if the dog is declared dangerous, they will either have requirements or the dog will be euthanized



Dangerous Animal Meeting

- Meeting between dog owners and our staff
- Owners get a chance to go over any incidents and explain what steps they are taking to prevent future problems
- We discuss the results of the Neighborhood Survey with the dog owners and gives them a chance to respond
- After the meeting, our staff meet privately to discuss the investigation and make a determination about the dog



Determination

- After a decision has been made, we write up a Dangerous Animal Declaration that either lays out restrictions for the dog, or orders that the dog be euthanized.
- The director of public health approves the declaration
- We hand deliver the declaration and answer any questions the owner may have.
 - Declaration is mailed if owner cannot be reached.
- The owner has 30 days to comply with the restrictions or they may appeal



Determination (cont.)

- If the owners appeal the decision, the Board of Health sets up a hearing and reviews the case. The owner may also appeal the Board of Health decision which then moves the case on to Municipal or Circuit Court
- It is rare that a decision to euthanize a dog is made and in those circumstances, the dog has usually already been seized and is at DCHS
- Once the appeal period has passed, the dog can be euthanized at the shelter. If the dog is still not in custody at the time the decision to euthanize is made, we determine how best to enforce an order of euthanasia



Elected Official Notification

- We notify the Madison Alderperson or County Supervisor for the area where the dog resides of the declaration and history of the dog
- We also update the Dangerous Dog Spreadsheet with the dog and owner's information
- All our animal services staff are notified of the dangerous dog, the restrictions and history of the case



Confirming Compliance

- We check in with the dog owner after the compliance deadline to verify that requirements have been met
- If the owner fails to meet the deadline, we can cite the owner
- If the owner has complied, we then monitor the dog on a yearly basis for the rest of the dog's life
- If at any time the dog reoffends, a citation can be issued, the dog may be seized, and/or a redetermination can be made depending on the severity of the offense

Out of 6,850 calls in 2023, 30 dangerous dog investigations were started.

