



HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION-ANIMAL SERVICES

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Potentially Dangerous Dog Questionnaire Guidelines

Potentially Dangerous Dog Questionnaires help assist Animal Services to investigate and pursue legal action against aggressive dogs and help ensure public safety. We do want you to understand all of the conditions you must agree to in order for us to prepare a case.

1. You **must** have witnessed the incident.
2. In the interest of public safety you may be required to provide testimony in court regarding the dog's behavior.

Please include all that apply in your statement.

- **How was the dog acting aggressive? Statements such as "The dog was aggressive" are not clear enough for court.** You must explain to the judge how you felt the dog was acting aggressive (e.g., the dog was showing its teeth, the dog was growling, the dog charged me, I saw the dog attack, etc.)
- **What defensive action did you have to take to prevent or stop an attack?** (e.g., I had to pick up a rock/stick and throw it at the dog; I had to yell for help; I stood still and did not move; I ran into the house; I stayed in my car etc.)
- **What did the dog look like?** Color, size, breed, or distinguishing characteristics such as "big brown dog with a red collar."
- **Was the dog off of the owner's property? Was it off its leash?**
- **Name and address of animal owner.**

3. Copies of veterinary records, medical reports and pictures of the injuries are vital in cases of dog attacks to livestock, other dogs or bites to humans.

4. *No personal opinions about the animal owner.* Statements of opinion are not admissible in court. Stick to the facts: **Who, What, When, Where and Why are important in court.**

5. We ask that you please return the **Potentially Dangerous Dog Questionnaire** to Animal Services within 3 to 5 business days if possible so that we can begin our investigation. You need to provide a separate Potentially Dangerous Dog Questionnaire for each incident that you have had with the dog.