

Aggressive Dangerous Vicious Ordinances

Review and Options

INDEPENDENCE UTILITIES CENTER

Aggressive/Dangerous/Vicious

Found in City Code SEC 3.03.007-3.03.009

Aggressive and Vicious sections added to ordinance in 2017

In 2022: 115 cases; 246 calls



Aggressive/Dangerous/Vicious

Aggressive:

- Minor attack to another domestic animal
- Displays aggressive behavior

Dangerous:

- Injury to a person
- Severe injury or death to another domestic animal

Vicious:

 Serious bodily injury to a person

Aggressive Dogs

Deemed Aggressive by judge for one of the following behaviors:

- Minor attack to another animal
- Displaying aggressive behavior

Outcome:

- Must be microchipped
- Must be spayed/neutered
- Minimum 6' fence
- If rehomed, any new owners must be informed of status



Dangerous Dogs

Deemed Dangerous by judge for one of the following behaviors:

- Injury to a person
- Severe injury or death to another domestic animal

Outcome:

- Annual permit
- Dangerous dog signage
- Liability insurance
- Annual proof of rabies
- Spay/neutered
- Microchipped
- Secure structure outside/muzzled on leash
- If rehomed, any new owners must be informed of status and new address must be provided

Vicious Dogs

Deemed Vicious by judge for one of the following behaviors:

• Serious bodily injury to a person

Outcome:

• Must be removed from the city or euthanized



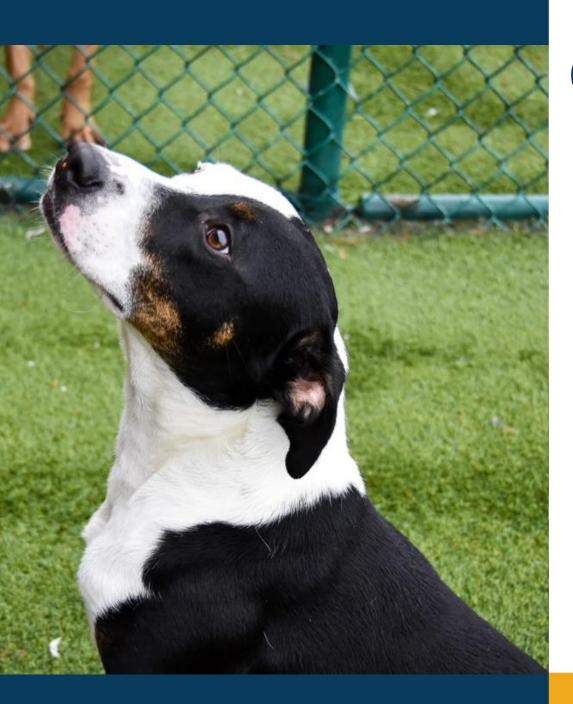


Options: Spay/Neuter

Require spay/neuter for

- 1. All dogs (no dog breeding within city) OR
- 2. Dogs of owners that are found guilty of an animal code violation OR
- 3. Dogs left outside unattended

- 1. Spay/neuter can be very expensive
- 2. Many area vets have long waits for surgery
- 3. May penalize the poorest of citizens
- 4. Running unrestrained and aggression can be linked to being unaltered pets



Options: Microchipping

Require spay/neuter for

- 1. All pets OR
- 2. Dogs when the owner is found guilty of a violation of the animal code ordinance OR
- 3. All dogs that remain outside for any length of time unattended

- 1. Relatively inexpensive to do
- 2. Can quickly reunite an unrestrained animal with its owner
- 3. Doesn't affect the animal's likelihood to bite
- 4. Does assist in holding an owner accountable



Options: Tethering

Limit the time an animal can be kept chained/tethered

- Limit total time in a day and length of time for each tethering episode
- Still require to provide food, water, and shelter

- 1. Tethering is strongly linked to aggressive behaviors
- 2. Could mirror neighboring jurisdictions to reduce confusion among citizens
- 3. May be too time-intensive to investigate complaints and enforce



Options: Training

Offer training classes for the public and mandatory training classes for those found guilty of animal code violations

- 1. Can be very costly and time-consuming
- 2. Classes are limited in our area
- 3. Shelter staff currently do not have the capacity to offer classes
- 4. Can be highly effective at altering behaviors
- 5. Funding is not currently available to contract the service



Jurisdiction	Calls/Officer in 2022
Independence	1595
Lenexa	280
КСМО	987
Blue Springs	680

Limitations

- Animal services officers currently handle more cases per officer than most neighboring jurisdictions
- Four (4) animal services officers are responsible for Independence and unincorporated Jackson County
- Removal of the pit bull ordinance will recover less than 200 hours/year
- Additions to the current ordinance may require prioritization for enforcement
- Funding is limited and the current draft budget does not call for an increase in staffing



Questions?

GRESERNON COMMUN

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