



INDEPENDENCE
★ MISSOURI ★

Aggressive Dangerous Vicious Ordinances

Review and Options



Aggressive/Dangerous/Vicious

1
Found in City
Code SEC
3.03.007-
3.03.009

2
Aggressive and Vicious
sections added to
ordinance in 2017

3
In 2022:
115 cases;
246 calls

Aggressive/Dangerous/Vicious

1 Aggressive:

- Minor attack to another domestic animal
- Displays aggressive behavior

2 Dangerous:

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

3 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

Pros and cons:

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

Pros and cons:

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

Pros and cons:

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

Pros and cons:

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



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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

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

ROGER T. SERMON COMMUNITY CENTER



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Questions?

Christina Heinen, Director

Jennifer Polston, Assistant Director