

VICTIMS

Reporting Public Safety Incidents

If you are involved in or are witness to a public safety incident you should report it to the authorities immediately.

Animal Service Field Services Hours:

FIELD SERVICES

Monday-Friday 7:00am-11:00pm

Saturday 10:00am-4:00pm

Public Safety Incidents:

If immediate medical attention is needed call 9-1-1

Active Human and/or Animal Attacks:

Animal Services Dispatch: 410-222-3939

Emergency reporting after hours:

Anne Arundel County Police: 410-222-8610

Annapolis City Police: 410-268-9000

For non-emergency reports for Animal Attacks or Public Safety Incidents:

Animal Services: 410-222-8900

Affidavit of Complaint

Victims may also file an affidavit of complaint against the owner of the animal involved in a public safety incident.

The owner's information for the animal must be listed, including name (first and last) and address. A description of the dog(s) must also be included. Please be sure the affidavit is notarized.

Fines up to \$500 will be assessed if the alleged violations are in accordance with the public safety definition.



This brochure defines a public safety threat posed by animals and the enforcement actions Animal Services may take. Animal Service does not aim to "destroy" all aggressive animals; owning one is legal, but irresponsible management leading to injury or threat is illegal.

Owners can face fines or strict conditions for maintaining aggressive animals. State law mandates reporting all animal bites or scratches that break human skin to the local Police Department or Animal Service. '

Beyond rabies testing, Animal Service assesses if the animal is a public safety threat. The Public Safety Office thoroughly investigates all bite reports and aggression complaints.

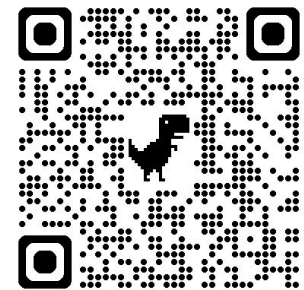
Following investigation, Animal Services may issue a "Dangerous" or "Potentially Dangerous" Order to impose conditions on the owner. A Warning Letter (a courtesy letter with recommendations) may be issued for a potential threat. If the animal is deemed a severe, imminent public safety threat, a Retain of Custody Order may be imposed.

All owners have the right to appeal any order imposed upon them



Anne Arundel County Department of Animal Services Public Safety

411 Maxwell Frye Road
Millersville, MD 21108
410-222-8900



Thank you for being a
responsible pet owner

PUBLIC SAFETY THREATS

§ 12-4-402. Public safety threats; potentially dangerous, dangerous, and vicious animal criteria; defenses.

(a) **Public safety threat.** An animal may not pose a threat to public safety. The owner of an animal who poses a threat to public safety is in violation of this section. An animal poses a threat to public safety if the animal:

- (1) inflicts severe injury to a person;
- (2) bites a person;
- (3) kills or inflicts injury to a domesticated animal;
- (4) attacks a person;
- (5) while at large, chases or approaches a lawfully restrained domesticated animal in an aggressive manner;
- (6) while at large, chases or approaches a person in an aggressive manner; or
- (7) engages in encouraged dogfighting activity or shows evidence of having been engaged in encouraged dogfighting activity.

Maryland Annotated Code Criminal Law Article 10 Section 619

Potentially Dangerous: a dog has inflicted a bite on a person while on public or private real property, when not on its owner's real property, has killed or inflicted severe injury on a domestic animal or has attacked without provocation.

Dangerous: A dog without provocation has killed or inflicted severe injury on a person or if an animal has been deemed potentially dangerous and bites a person, when not on its owner's real property kills or inflicts severe injury to a domestic animal or attacks without provocation.

Severe Injury: a physical injury that results in broken bones or disfiguring lacerations requiring multiple sutures cosmetic surgery.

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDERS

An administrative order may be placed on an animal that is deemed potentially dangerous or dangerous in accordance with Article 12 Title 4 Section 402. The order requires the owners of the animal follow strict conditions as to the housing and management of the animal when on and off their property.

In accordance with Article 12 Title 4 Section 403 a Potentially Dangerous or Dangerous Order can be imposed with some or all of the following conditions that must be met:

- (1) manage the animal and its environment in a manner that will abate the animal's problem;
- (2) spay or neuter the animal;
- (3) implant the animal with a microchip containing owner identification information;
- (4) obtain an insurance policy providing for protection for bite victims in a minimum amount of \$300,000;
- (5) remove the animal from the custody of an individual less than 21 years old;
- (6) for a rental property, obtain the written permission of the landlord to maintain the animal on the property;
- (7) confine the animal to a structure of a size and type specified by the Department;
- (8) maintain the animal exclusively on the owner's property except for medical treatment or examination;
- (9) muzzle or leash the animal as required by the Department;
- (10) post on the premises where the animal is maintained a clearly visible warning sign that there is a dangerous animal on the property;
- (11) a behavioral assessment for the animal;
- (12) specialized training for the animal; or
- (13) such other conditions as the Department determines to be in the public interest.

In accordance with Article 12 Title 4 Section 404 and 405:

Vicious: The Department shall order the humane euthanasia of an animal determined to be vicious and no person may keep an animal designated as such.

Misdemeanor charges are also possible for owner's of animals that have been deemed Dangerous and are found to have violated the conditions of the order.

PUBLIC SAFETY IMPOUND

Depending on the severity of the incidence, your animal may be impounded under a public safety impound. The animal remains in AACDAS custody until the investigation is completed, which occurs within 14 days of impoundment. If an Administrative Order is issued, custody continues until the owner meets the order's compliance conditions or completes the appeal process.

The owner is fully responsible for all associated fees, including impoundment costs ranging from \$25.00 to \$200.00, plus daily boarding at \$5.00 and any necessary medical fees.

During the animal's stay, owners may visit by appointment only on designated days and hours, with visitations limited to 15 minutes and requiring a signed liability waiver.

APPEALS

All owners with an animal that has been deemed Dangerous, Potentially Dangerous or has had a Retain of Custody Order imposed on their dog has the right to appeal.

The first step in the appeal process is the Animal Control Commission, free of charge. If the owner is not satisfied with the decision of the Animal Matters Commission they may appeal to the Board of Appeals for a \$250 fee.