

## **Chapter 55.750 Dangerous Dog Determination**

### **Background**

Dangerous dogs have become a serious and widespread threat to the safety and welfare of citizens in Nevada. The number of unprovoked dog attacks on children, adults, other domestic animals and livestock are of concern. Many of these attacks are the result of the failure of owners to confine and properly control their dogs. The necessity for regulation and control of dogs that pose a threat is evident.

NRS 202.500 language from the 2013 Session needs to be added to Chapter 55.750 which precludes a dog from being declared dangerous based solely on the breed of the dog. In addition, revisions to this County Code will increase public safety through more stringent guidelines and penalties for violations. The process and criteria for determining a dog to be dangerous and the provisions set forth for dogs that have been declared dangerous are clearly outlined.

### **Summary of proposed changes**

- Increase liability insurance for a declared dangerous dog from \$50,000 to \$250,000 to increase the coverage provided to a victim who may have significant injuries.
- Dogs pending a dangerous dog determination and dogs already declared dangerous will not be permitted to move into, within or out of Washoe County without notifying Animal Services 30 days prior.
- WCRAS license fees for a declared dangerous dog will increase from \$50.00/yr to \$500.00/yr to cover additional administrative costs to track dangerous dogs.
- Clarification of criteria to assist in declaring a dangerous dog.
- Clarification on who may adjudicate a dangerous dog hearing and declare a dog dangerous.
- Provides language requiring a dog to be kept safely contained in an enclosure, approved by Animal Services while pending a dangerous dog determination. This is in the interest of public safety.
- **Language added to align with NRS 202.500 that a dog may not be found dangerous or vicious based solely on the breed of the dog.**
- Exclusions for commercial kennels, veterinary clinics, and animal shelters.

### **Community Concerns**

- Fee increases are onerous
- Dangerous dogs should have the opportunity to be rehabilitated
- Process takes too long
- How will dogs entering/moving within or out of Washoe County be monitored