

## **DANGEROUS DOG ORDINANCES**

The Iowa Veterinary Medical Association opposes breed specific dangerous dog legislation.

A national dangerous dog bite registry that would require all dogs with dog bite history be micro chipped and registered may be a solution. There would need to be rules/regulations established to prevent repeat offenders and eliminate the opportunity for dangerous dogs to move from one location to another.

The Iowa Veterinary Medical Association supports legislation to make it a serious misdemeanor to allow a dangerous dog to run at large.

The Iowa Veterinary Medical Association opposes legislation that would allow euthanizing a dangerous dog by anyone other than a law officer, humane organization, veterinarian or person authorized under Iowa Code Sections 351.26 and 351.27.

The Iowa Veterinary Medical Association supports removing and euthanizing a dangerous dog that has injured or killed any person or domestic animal more than once.

A dangerous dog is any dog that has, without provocation, injured or killed any person or domestic animal.

### **IOWA CODE**

Section 351.26 Right and duty to kill untagged dog.

It shall be lawful for any person, and the duty of all peace officers within their respective jurisdictions unless such jurisdiction shall have otherwise provided for the seizure and impoundment of dogs, to kill any dog for which a rabies vaccination tag is required, when the dog is not wearing a collar with rabies vaccination tag attached.

Section 351.27 Right to kill tagged dog.

It shall be lawful for any person to kill a dog, wearing a collar with a rabies vaccination tag attached, when the dog is caught in the act of worrying, chasing, maiming, or killing any domestic animal or fowl, or when such dog is attacking or attempting to bite a person.

Section 351.33 Rabies vaccination.

Every owner of a dog shall obtain a rabies vaccination for such animal. It shall be unlawful for any person to own or have a dog in their person's possession, six months of age or over, which has not been vaccinated against rabies. Dogs kept in kennels and not allowed to run at large shall not be subject to these vaccination requirements.

Section 351.37 Dogs running at large – impoundment – disposition.

A dog shall be apprehended and impounded by a local board of health or law enforcement official if the dog is running at large and the dog is not wearing a

valid rabies vaccination tag or a rabies vaccination certificate is not presented to the local board of health or law enforcement official.

The local board of health or law enforcement official shall provide written notice to the owner if the local board of health or law enforcement official can reasonably determine the owner's name and current address by accessing a tag or other device that is on or a part of the dog. The notice shall be sent within two days after the dog has been impounded. The notice shall provide that if the owner does not redeem the dog within seven days from the date that the notice is delivered, the dog may be humanely destroyed or otherwise disposed of in accordance with law. For purposes of this section, notice is delivered when the local board of health or law enforcement official mails the notice which may be by regular mail. An owner may redeem a dog by having it immediately vaccinated and paying the cost of impoundment.

If the owner of the impounded dog fails to redeem the dog within seven days from the date of the delivery of the notice to the dog's owner as provided in this section, the dog may be disposed of in accordance with law. If the dog is destroyed, it must be destroyed by euthanasia as defined in Section 162.2.

Approved by the Iowa Veterinary Medical Association Executive Board on January 21, 2004.