

Avery's Law FAQ & Responses

Q: Does this law target specific dog breeds?

No. Avery's Law does not apply to specific breeds. The law focuses on a dog's behavior and an owner's responsibility to safely manage their dog.

Q: What does "without provocation" mean?

Generally, provocation means a dog was reacting to something done to it, such as being attacked, abused, or threatened. Each situation is evaluated based on the circumstances of the incident.

Q: Will every dog involved in an incident be euthanized?

No. Euthanasia is not automatic for every bite or incident. In the most serious cases — when a dog kills or seriously injures a person and the court determines the attack was unprovoked — the law requires euthanasia.

Q: Who determines if a dog is dangerous or vicious?

Dangerous or vicious designations are determined through an official process involving an investigation by the dog warden or appropriate law enforcement and a court determination.

Q: What happens if a dog is designated as dangerous or vicious?

Owners must follow additional requirements such as:

- Special registration
- Strict confinement rules
- Obtaining Liability insurance
- Additional safety precautions

Q: Can a dog be seized after an attack?

In certain situations, yes. Dog wardens may seize and impound a dog involved in a serious attack while the incident is scheduled for a court hearing. This allows authorities to ensure public safety while the situation is reviewed.

Q: Are dogs protected if they were defending themselves or their owner?

Yes. The law includes protections for dogs that act in **legitimate defense of themselves, their owner, or their property.**

Q: What can owners do to prevent incidents?

Responsible ownership is the best prevention. This includes:

- Proper containment and leashing
- Training and socialization
- Supervision around children and other pets
- Addressing behavior issues early, before they become a major problem

- Maintaining proper dog licensing and identification

Q: Does this mean dog owners can go to jail?

Yes. In certain cases where an owner negligently fails to control their dog and the dog seriously injures or kills someone, the law allows for criminal charges.