Quarantine Laws and Dog Bite Prevention
For Service Professionals
Also Featuring: Animal Neglect and Cruelty

QUARANTINE means strict confinement

• Purpose of Quarantine to determine is the biting animal that has bitten a person has rabies.
• Length of Quarantine is 10 days released on the 11th day

CALIFORNIA STATE HEALTH & SAFETY CODES

• H & S Code section 121705 CONCEALING INFORMATION
• Any person who willfully conceals information about the location or ownership of an animal subject to rabies which has bitten or otherwise exposed a person to rabies, with the intent to prevent the quarantine or isolation of that animal by the local health officer is guilty of a misdemeanor
H & S Code section 121710
FAILURE TO QUARANTINE OR PRODUCE ANIMAL
• Any person who, after notice, violates any order of a local health officer concerning the isolation or quarantine of an animal of a species subject to rabies, which has bitten or otherwise exposed a person to rabies or who, after that order, fails to produce the animal upon demand of the local health officer, is guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment in the county jail for a period not to exceed one year, or by fine of not less than one hundred dollars ($100), nor more than one thousand dollars ($1000) per day of violation, or by both fine and imprisonment.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY CODE
• SDCC 62.617 ISOLATION OF BITING ANIMALS
• Upon the order of the Department, any animal of a species subject to rabies which bites or otherwise exposes a person to rabies may be impounded and shall be isolated in strict confinement in a place and manner approved by the Department until examined and released by the Department. Any person who violates any provision of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor.

DANGEROUS DOGS
• SDCC 62.601(e)
• “ATTACK” means any action by an animal which places a person in reasonable apprehension of immediate bodily harm
SDCC 62.601 (l)

- DANGEROUS DOG means a dog which:
  - has twice in a 48-month period attacked, bitten, or otherwise caused injury to a person engaged in lawful activity; or
  - has once attacked, bitten, or otherwise caused injury to a person engaged in lawful activity, resulting in death or substantial injury; or
  - has been declared a “Vicious Dog” or “Dangerous Dog” by the Department pursuant to section 62.674 of this chapter.

Bite Statistics

- 800,000 people bitten each year
- Half are children – most bitten in face
- 32 fatal maulings in 2007
- Over $300 million paid by insurance annually
- 1982-2006 Clifton study
  - 65% of fatalities caused by pitbulls, Rottweilers, Presa Canarios and their mixes

Figure 3: Activity/Circumstances Surrounding Dog Bites, Abstracted Data, Minnesota, 2001-2002 (N=7,769)
Dog bite epidemic

- Involves all dog and all owners
- Any dog, treated harshly or trained to attack, may bite a person
- Any dog can be turned into a dangerous dog
- Responsible pet ownership
- Love dogs, respect dogs

Keys to Bite Prevention

- Awareness
- Assess the dog accurately
- Understand that the dog is trying to read YOU
- Understand that you are a stranger to every dog
- Control the situation - use preventative measures
- Understand how dogs see the world
Awareness
• Look for signs that indicate a dog may be present:
  – Worn paths or holes dug
  – Dog house
  – Water, food bowls
  – Tethers, chains, leashes
  – Damage to screens on doors or windows

Be aware of any open windows or doors — a dog may come charging out.

Awareness
• Keep in mind that there may be a dog door
• Do not assume that a tethered dog is secure

Awareness
• Listen for signs that indicate a dog may be present
  – Barking or scratching
  – Sound of chain being dragged
  – Puppies whining
  – Collar or tags jingling
• Assess the dog accurately
  – Consider
  • Breed
  • Age
  • Altered Status
  • Genetics / Socialization
  • Motivation to bite
  • Body Language
    – The dog’s
    – Yours

2008 Fatality: Justin Mozer Killed by Jack Russell Terrier
Family Dog Kills 6-Week Old Infant
UPDATE 1/20/08: Attack on Baby Called ‘Freakish Accident’
Jeff Mozer, the uncle of the baby that was killed by the Jack Russell said the dog was a longtime family pet, trusted around his own baby and other babies in the family.

• Bully breeds – pitbulls, bulldogs, mastiffs
  – Rottweilers
  – German Shepherds
• Small breeds

Bred to do a job

• Pitbulls: includes American Pitbull Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier, Staffordshire Bull Terrier, American Bulldog
  – Bred to pit bulls – ‘Butcher Dogs’
• Rottweilers
  – Bred for protection
• Presa Canarios and other mastiff breeds
  – Bred for protection
Age
- Puppies less likely to be aggressive
- Older or geriatric dogs more likely to be irritable due to complications of advanced age

Altered Status
- Unaltered males 2.6 times more likely to be aggressive
  - Hormones more roaming/marking more likely to reside outside more likely to establish and defend territory

Genetics / Socialization
- May have a genetic predisposition towards aggression
- May have been poorly socialized

Dog’s Perspective (Motivation)
- Dog feels threatened or afraid
- Dog is protecting resources
- Dog is aroused (heightened sense of awareness)
- Dog is ill
- Dog has been trained to protect
• **YOU!**
  - Afraid of dogs
  - Bad experience with dogs
  - Bad experience with a particular breed
  - Personality (assertive/timid)
  - How you look (uniform, hat, sunglasses, badge, etc.)
  - Misinformation about dogs

  Remember, the dog is trying to read YOU as you are trying to read him!

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**Body Language**

• How can you tell if the dog is going to bite you?
  - Key considerations:
    - Always start with the assumption that the dog IS going to bite
    - There is no ONE body part that will give you ALL of the information
    - A fearful dog is just as dangerous as a confident one
    - YOU cannot dominate the dog as a method of control

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**Tails**

• Wagging tails simply indicate a willingness to interact—good or bad
• Higher tails usually indicate more confidence
• Tucked tails indicate fear
• Slow, flagging tails usually indicate trouble
Eyes
- Direct, sustained stare indicates a threat
- Avoidance of eye contact usually indicates submission or fear
- Whale eye indicates fear or anxiety

Body Posture
- A stiff body usually indicates high arousal – dog is ready
- A loose body usually indicates a relaxed state
- A backward leaning body usually indicates fear
- A forward leaning body usually indicates confidence

Mouth
- An open mouth with tongue lolling out usually indicates the dog is relaxed
- A closed mouth usually indicates the dog is aroused
- Nose licking and yawning are stress related behaviors
Putting it all together!

Approaching a residence safely
• Look and listen for signs of a dog present on the property
• Call out, rattle keys or the gate
• Carry treats with you
• Be prepared to defend yourself
  – Carry a clipboard or umbrella

If confronted by a dog behind a fence
• Back away from the fence, turn to the side
• Do not make direct eye contact with the dog
• Talk softly and calmly
• Try tossing some treats to the dog
• Wait to see if the owner comes out
At the front door

• Knock softly
• Keep one foot braced against the door
• Keep in mind that a dog can come through a screen door
• Ask the resident if they own a dog
• If they do, immediately ask the owner to move the dog to a secure area

Keep a leash handy to give the owner so they can restrain the dog.

DO NOT

• ...attempt to make friends with the dog, even if the owner states that the dog is friendly
• …trust the owner to hold on to the dog
• …try to sneak past a sleeping or tethered dog
• …approach any unknown dog
• …run from a loose dog
• …assume that a tethered dog is secure

If confronted by a loose dog

• Stay calm – dog's cannot ‘smell’ fear, but they are masters at reading body language
• Stand still – hold an object out towards them at head level – do not wave it around
• Do not turn your back on the dog – fear biters will seize the opportunity
• Do not stare at the dog – keep him in your peripheral vision
• Walk slowly backwards being careful not to stumble
• If the dog advances on you, tell the dog to 'sit' in a firm tone
• If an attack begins, drop to the ground and cover the back of your neck – STAY STILL and QUIET
If bitten
• Get an accurate description of the dog
• Get the owner’s information if possible
• Try to find out where the dog lives
• Report the incident Department of Animal Services  619-236-2341
• Seek medical attention for ANY bite

HELP US…..
• Always call Animal Services if there are any signs of abuse or neglect
  – Does the pet look too thin?
  – Does it have access to shelter and/or shade?
  – Are there visible signs of abuse?
  – Is the pet sick or injured and not receiving treatment?
  – Is there fresh water nearby?
  – If the dog is tethered to a stationary object?
Duties of Animal Control Officers

- Neglect/Cruelty Investigations
- Public Safety, aggressive dogs, dog bites, dogs running at large
- Assisting other Law Enforcement Agencies
- Enforce State/County Laws that relate to animals
- Sick/injured wildlife or domestic animals
- Education
- Respond to Disasters

Animal Cruelty & Neglect

- Animals not receiving adequate veterinary treatment, animals suffering
- Animals not receiving proper care (nutrition, water)
- Animals improperly confined (no water, no shelter, tethered)
- Animals being cruelly treated/abused
- Animals in vehicles subjecting them to extreme temperatures/inadequate ventilation
- Dog/Cock fighting

P. C. 597.1 Permitting Animals to go Without Care

- (a) Every owner, driver, or keeper of any animal who permits the animal to be in any building, enclosure, lane, street, square, or lot of any city, county, city and county, or judicial district without proper care and attention is guilty of a misdemeanor.
P. C 597 (a) Crimes Against Animals

• (a) Except as provided in subdivision (c) of this section or Section 599c, every person who maliciously and intentionally maims, mutilates, tortures, or wounds a living animal, or maliciously and intentionally kills an animal, is guilty of an offense punishable by imprisonment in the state prison, or by a fine of not more than twenty thousand dollars ($20,000), or by both the fine and imprisonment, or, alternatively, by imprisonment in a county jail for not more than one year, or by a fine of not more than twenty thousand dollars ($20,000), or by both the fine and imprisonment.
P. C 597 (b) Crimes Against Animals

(b) Except as otherwise provided in subdivision (a) or (c), every person who overdrives, overloads, drives when overloaded, overworks, tortures, torments, deprives of necessary sustenance, drink, or shelter, cruelly beats, mutilates, or cruelly kills any animal, or causes or procures any animal to be so overdriven, overloaded, driven when overloaded, overworked, tortured, tormented, deprived of necessary sustenance, drink, shelter, or to be cruelly beaten, mutilated, or cruelly killed; and whoever, having the charge or custody of any animal, either as owner or otherwise, subjects any animal to needless suffering, or inflicts unnecessary cruelty upon the animal, or in any manner abuses any animal, or fails to provide the animal with proper food, drink, or shelter or protection from the weather, or who drives, rides, or otherwise uses the animal when unfit for labor, is, for every such offense, guilty of a crime punishable as a misdemeanor or as a felony or alternatively punishable as a misdemeanor or a felony and by a fine of not more than twenty thousand dollars ($20,000).

If you see any of these issues:
• Report any violations to Department of Animal Services: (619)236-4250
• Even if you aren’t sure if what you saw would be a violation please call and an officer can go out to investigate.
• We have Officers on duty 24/7 so if situation is exigent we will respond as soon as possible.