COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO RESPONSE TO 2023-24 GRAND JURY REPORT
"Dog Bites in San Diego County"
Published June 10, 2024

FINDINGS

Finding F2: Public information concerning fines for violations of dog control ordinances is not available for all interviewed jurisdictions.

Response: The County of San Diego disagrees wholly with this finding for itself but cannot comment for other jurisdictions. The County's dog control ordinances are found in Chapter 4, Section 6 of the San Diego County Code of Regulatory Ordinances and public information for fines and violations is available in the Superior Court of California, County of San Diego 2024 Misdemeanor and Infraction Bail Schedule (Bail Schedule). The Bail Schedule is publicly available as a downloadable PDF on the Superior Court of California, County of San Diego's website (Bail and Sentencing Information | Superior Court of California - County of San Diego). Fines for violations of 24 San Diego County ordinances are contained within this public-facing document.

Finding F3: Providing the authorization to animal control officers to issue citations and fines would provide a method, short of a Dangerous Dog hearing, to incentivize owners to better control their dog's behavior.

Response: The County of San Diego disagrees wholly with this finding for itself but cannot comment for other jurisdictions. Per Section 62.669.1(a)(1) of the San Diego County Code of Regulatory Ordinances it is unlawful for a dog to bite a person engaged in a lawful act. Individuals who violate this section may be arrested or cited under section 62.662 and are subject to bail payments imposed by the court pursuant to the Bail Schedule (Bail and Sentencing Information | Superior Court of California - County of San Diego). The amount for a dog bite is $150 and a subsequent offense is $300. The Department believes that this current citation process provides sufficient incentive to comply with the Code.

Finding F4: Public information about the presence of Dangerous Dogs in a neighborhood, particularly near public schools, is not readily available in San Diego County.

Response: The County of San Diego agrees with this finding for itself but cannot comment for other jurisdictions. Currently, there is no known single source of information that would allow the public to be aware of where declared Dangerous Dogs reside.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation R2: Interviewed cities and the County of San Diego should publicly post the fines associated with violations of ordinances concerning dogs.

Response: The recommendation has been implemented by the County of San Diego. The County cannot comment for other jurisdictions. Fines for violations of the San Diego County Code of Regulatory Ordinances concerning dogs are found in the Bail Schedule which is available to the public as a downloadable PDF on the Superior Court of California, County of San Diego's website (Bail and Sentencing Information | Superior Court of California - County of San Diego). The County of San Diego will analyze additional ways to post fines associated with violations of ordinances concerning dogs.

Recommendation R3: Interviewed cities and the County of San Diego should develop regulations for a citation and fine process for the violation of animal control ordinances including when a dog bite is reported.

> **Response: The recommendation will not be implemented because regulations for a citation and fine process already exist. The County cannot comment for other jurisdictions.** Regulations for a citation and fine process for violations of animal control ordinances, including dog bite incidents, are found in Chapter 4, Section 6 of the San Diego County Code of Regulatory Ordinances. The regulation of dog bites is found in Section 62.669.1(a)(1). Individuals who violate this section may be arrested or cited under section 62.662 and are subject to bail payments imposed by the court pursuant to the Bail Schedule (Bail and Sentencing Information | Superior Court of California - County of San Diego). The Department believes that this current citation process provides sufficient incentive to comply with the Code.

Recommendation R4: The San Diego County Board of Supervisors direct the County Animal Control Division to develop a plan for collecting information about the location of a declared Dangerous Dog within the County and posting this information, so it is readily available to the public.

> **Response: The recommendation requires further analysis by the County of San Diego.** The San Diego County Board of Supervisors may direct the Chief Administrative Officer to develop a plan for collecting information about the location of a declared Dangerous Dog within the county and posting this information, so it is readily available to the public. If the Board of Supervisors makes this recommendation, a legal, policy, and cost analysis will be conducted to determine legality and which County departments would be responsible for the aggregation and posting of this information. These analyses would be ready for further discussion within six months.