

COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
CODE OF ORDINANCES

Chapter 8.04 DEFINITIONS (EXCERPTS)

8.04.010 Definitions.

When used in this Title, the words defined in this Chapter shall have the meanings prescribed in this Chapter. (SCC 0815 § 2, 1990; SCC 304 § 1, 1977; Ord. 1053 § 1, 1969.)

8.04.130 Director.

“Director,” “Director of Animal Care and Regulation,” or “Chief of Animal Care and Regulation” means the administrative head of the County Department of Animal Care and Regulation and his or her duly authorized deputies. (SCC 1356 § 4, 2007; SCC 0815 § 2, 1990; Ord. 1053 § 13, 1969.)

8.04.220 Owner.

“Owner” means the primary or responsible person who: (1) possesses, has title to, an interest in, harbors, controls or has custody of an animal; and (2) feeds or otherwise provides care or sustenance to the animal for thirty (30) consecutive days or more on property located within the unincorporated territory of the County. (SCC 1356 § 7, 2007; SCC 0958 § 3, 1994; SCC 0815 § 2, 1990.)

8.04.260 Vicious Animal.

“Vicious animal” means any animal including a dog (except a dog assisting a peace officer engaged in law enforcement duties) which has, on one or more occasions, committed any one or more of the following acts:

1. Without provocation inflicted severe injury on or killed a human being.
2. In an unprovoked manner killed another domestic animal, as defined in section 8.04.140 of this Title, excluding rabbit or fowl, at a place other than upon the private property where the attacking animal is maintained.
3. Physically attacked, mauled, or physically injured by biting any person, without provocation, at a place other than upon the private property where the animal is maintained.
4. Physically attacked, mauled, or physically injured by biting any person, without provocation, when the owner thereof knows or should reasonably know that the animal poses a threat to public safety and has made no substantial effort to prevent the attack or when the owner has purposefully encouraged or commanded the animal to attack, maul, or physically injure any person.
5. Physically attacked, mauled or physically injured by biting any guide dog for the blind, service dog for the disabled or signal (hearing) dog for the deaf, without provocation, at a place other than upon the private property where the attacking animal is maintained.
6. Physically attacked, mauled or physically injured by biting any guide dog for the blind, service dog for the disabled or signal (hearing) dog for the deaf, without provocation, when the owner of the attacking animal knows or should know that the animal poses a threat to public safety and has made no substantial effort to prevent the attack or when the owner has purposefully encouraged or commanded the animal to attack, maul or physically injure any guide dog for the blind, service dog for the disabled or signal (hearing) dog for the deaf.
7. Any animal previously determined to be and currently listed as a dangerous animal which, after its owner or keeper has been notified of this determination, continues the behavior described in Section 8.04.265.

For purposes of this section, provocation does not include the acts of a person attempting to prevent an animal from physically attacking, mauling, or physically injuring by biting another person or animal. (SCC 1180 § 1, 2001; SCC 0892 § 10, 1992; SCC 0815 § 2, 1990.)

8.04.265 Dangerous Animals.

“Dangerous Animal” means any animal including a dog (except a dog assisting a peace officer engaged in law enforcement duties) which, when unprovoked, on two separate occasions within the prior twelve (12) month period, has killed, severely bitten, inflicted injury or otherwise caused injury attacking a

domestic animal off the private property of the owner or keeper of the offending animal. For purposes of this section, at least one of the occasions must have caused severe injury, as defined in Section 8.04.275. Nothing in this section shall prevent an animal which commits an offense described in section 8.04.260 from being determined vicious. (SCC 1180 § 2, 2001.)

8.04.270 Vicious Behavior.

“Vicious behavior” means any acts committed by an animal as defined in Section 8.04.260. (SCC 0815 § 2, 1990.)

8.04.275 Severe Injury.

“Severe Injury” means any physical injury to a human being or animal that results in muscle tears or disfiguring lacerations or requires multiple sutures or corrective or cosmetic surgery. (SCC 1180 § 3, 2001.)