



# Seguin Police Department



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## MEMORANDUM Control #AS-16-001

To: Kevin Kelso, Chief of Police

From: Leah Lewis, Animal Services Supervisor

Date: January 8, 2016

Subject: Dangerous Dog Ordinance Amendment

In December 2015, Animal Services investigated an at-large domesticated dog death, which was the result of an apparent confrontation that occurred between one to three other at-large, domesticated dogs.

This investigation heightened the necessity of reviewing our existing dangerous dog city ordinance. In working with the Seguin City Attorney and reviewing other agencies dangerous dog ordinances, it was determined that revising our existing ordinance was prudent and necessary in maintaining “best practices.”

The major change to the dangerous dog ordinance is to broaden the definition of dangerous dog to include dogs that make an unprovoked attack on another domesticated animal, when the attacking dog is at-large. This expanded definition is limited by redefining “unprovoked” to exclude those cases where the dog that is attacked is not restrained or within a fenced yard or enclosure.

The ordinance also includes changes to the dangerous dog hearing process to include a list of conditions that the Judge may impose upon an owner to protect the public if the Judge finds that the owner’s dog is dangerous.

The ordinance also includes some house cleaning for the purposes of clarification and to consistently refer to Animal Services (rather than animal control).

Finally, the ordinance makes two changes in the section that governs the composition of the Animal Services Advisory Committee. The first change brings the appointment process in line with the city’s procedure (appointment by Mayor with council approval). The second change makes the director of animal services a permanent member of the committee (rather than rotating between that person and someone else working for Animal Services).

**O.U.R. S.P.D.**

*Order, Understanding, Respect, Service, Pride, Dedication*

The Animal Services Advisory Committee met on January 7, 2016 and approved sending the dangerous dog ordinance amendment to city council.

**O.U.R. S.P.D.**

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