

About Animal Services

The mission of Culver City Animal Services is to protect the health, safety and general welfare of the Culver City residents and animals through effective and courteous enforcement and education of the Culver City Municipal Codes, Los Angeles County Codes, and state laws. That responsibility includes responding to reports of dogs acting aggressively toward humans or other domestic animals.

An Animal Services Officer investigating these reports may find circumstances that warrant a *Potentially Dangerous Dog* or *Vicious Dog* investigation. These investigations are conducted when more serious violations that have resulted in injury and/or increased or ongoing threat to public safety has occurred.

This brochure provides the step-by-step explanation of the Potentially Dangerous Dog or Vicious Dog Declaration process.

What is a Severe Injury? (Los Angeles County Code 10.37.040)

A “Severe Injury” is defined as any physical harm to a human being that results in a serious illness or injury, including but not limited to a major fracture, muscle tears or disfiguring lacerations requiring multiple sutures or corrective or cosmetic surgery.

What is a Potentially Dangerous Dog? (Los Angeles County Code 10.37.020)

Criteria for Potentially Dangerous Declaration are intended for situations in which a dog has behaved less aggressively, or injuries sustained by humans or other domestic animals are less severe. Injury isn’t necessarily required to initiate an investigation. Continued reports received by Culver City Animal Services about dogs that don’t bite or injure, but chase and endanger residents may also be investigated for Potentially Dangerous Declaration.

“Potentially Dangerous Dog” means any of the following:

- A. Any dog which, when unprovoked, on two separate occasions within the prior 36-month period, engages in any behavior that requires a defensive action by any person to prevent bodily injury to any person, domestic animal or livestock, off the property of the owner or custodian of the dog;
- B. Any dog which, when unprovoked, bites a person or otherwise engages in aggressive behavior, causing a less severe injury;
- C. Any dog which, when unprovoked, has killed, seriously bitten, inflicted injury, or otherwise caused injury to a domestic animal or livestock off the property of the owner or custodian of the dog.

What is Vicious Dog? (Los Angeles County Code 10.37.030)

Dogs that have caused severe injury to a person or killed a person may be investigated for Vicious Declaration. These attacks can occur while a dog is running loose or when confined on the owner’s property.

“Vicious Dog” means any of the following:

- A. Any dog that engages in or has been found to have been trained to engage in exhibitions of fighting;
- B. Any dog which, when unprovoked, in an aggressive manner, inflicts severe injury on or kills a person;
- C. Any dog previously determined to be and currently listed as a potentially dangerous dog in Los Angeles County, or to be a dangerous or vicious dog in another jurisdiction, which, after its owner or custodian has been notified of this determination, continues the behavior described in the Los Angeles County Code 10.37.020, or is maintained in violation of the Los Angeles County Code Section 10.37.130, “Consequences of Potentially Dangerous Dog Determination,” an administrative decision, a court order or restrictions placed upon it by another jurisdiction.

Investigation (Los Angeles County Code 10.37.100)

Following receipt of a sworn witness or victim statement describing the incident, an Animal Services Officer will investigate the alleged violation. Once the investigation is complete, an in-depth report will be prepared and the case will be reviewed to determine if the incident meets criteria established in the Los Angeles County Code for Potentially Dangerous and Vicious Dog Declaration.

If upon investigation it is determined by the Animal Services Officer that probable cause exists that the dog in question poses an immediate threat to public safety, then the Animal Services officer may seize and impound the dog pending the hearing to be held pursuant to this chapter. The owner or custodian of the dog shall be liable for the costs and expenses of keeping the dog impounded if the dog is later adjudicated potentially dangerous or vicious. Such costs and expenses shall be paid prior to the release of the dog.

Hearing

If an Animal Services Officer has investigated and determined that there is probable cause that a dog is potentially dangerous or vicious, the City Attorney's Office shall petition the Superior Court, within the judicial district wherein the dog is owned or kept, for a hearing, or shall serve a petition for an administrative hearing, to determine whether or not the dog in questions should be declared potentially dangerous or vicious.

Fees for Investigation

If a hearing is held and the dog is deemed potentially dangerous or vicious, the fees will be as follows:

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| 1) PDD/VD Investigation (1 st) | \$500.00 |
| 2) PDD/VD Investigation (2 nd) | \$700.00 |
| 3) PDD/VD Investigation (3 rd) | \$1000.00 |
| 4) PDD/VD Collar | At Owner's Expense |
| 5) Signs for Property | At Owner's Expense |
| 6) Insurance Policy | At Owner's Expense |
| 7) Licensing/Rabies Vaccination | At Owner's Expense |
| 8) Neutering/Microchip | At Owner's Expense |



**Culver City Animal Services
Culver City Police Department
4040 Duquesne Avenue
Culver City, California 90232**

<http://www.culvercitypd.org/animalservices.html>

Guide to Potentially Dangerous and Vicious Dog Declaration

**Field Services: 310-253-6143
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E-Mail: Animal.Services@culvercity.org**

