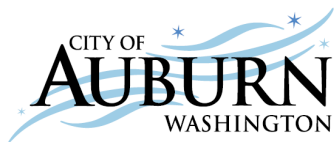


**POLICE DEPARTMENT  
MEMORANDUM**



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**DATE:** December 4, 2017

**TO:** Mayor Nancy Backus

**FROM:** Assistant Chief of Police Pierson

**SUBJECT:** Dangerous and Potentially Dangerous Dogs

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The purpose of this memorandum is to outline how the police department has been handling Dangerous Dog and Potentially Dangerous dog cases and the quantity of such cases. The memorandum will be structured in a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) format to answer a series of questions and concerns posed by Auburn City Council. Auburn City Code 6.35 and the definitions of Dangerous Dog, Potentially Dangerous Dog and finally Proper enclosure of a dangerous dog are included by reference.

- 1. How many animal related calls for service has the Police Department handled over the last two years? In addition, what has been the typical response by the Animal Control Authority?**

	2016	2017 (YTD)	Total
<b>Animal Calls for Service</b>	1,883	1,649	3,532

*Most of animal control type contacts are based on education. The ACO handles 160 calls for service each month and addresses each one uniquely based on the circumstances.*

- 2. How many animal related reports and investigations have been completed over the last two years?**

	2016	2017 (YTD)	Total
<b>Animal Cases/Report Written</b>	186	160	346

*Typically, the officer would issue a warning notice, infraction or criminal citation and possibly impound the animal. During the second quarter of 2017, the following were issued by the ACO: 25 Warnings, 124 Infractions, 17 criminal citations and 56 animals were impounded.*

**3. How many breed specific Potentially Dangerous Dog registrations does the City of Auburn currently have on file with the City Clerk's Office?**

*There are currently 372 dogs that have registered with the city exclusively due to the dog's breed. (See ordinance 6.01.010.A.25.d) Of the 372 registrations, 216 are Pit-Bull Terrier or mix of this breed. There is no fee for this type of registration unless the dog is involved in an event that deems them Potentially Dangerous such as:*

- a. While unprovoked, it attacked, bit endangered or injured a human or a domestic animal OR*
- b. It has chased or approached a person upon a street, sidewalk, or public grounds in a menacing fashion.*

*\*if either (a) or (b) are applicable, then the owner of such animal shall pay a yearly \$100 fee.*

**4. How many dogs are registered as Potentially Dangerous or Dangerous due to their action under sections (a) and (b) above?**

*There are currently 13 dogs that are registered with the City of Auburn as Potentially Dangerous due to their actions, and 12 Dangerous Dog registrations. In both categories only seven of these dogs are the Pit-Bull Terrier Breed.*

*If a dog is declared Potentially Dangerous or Dangerous, the owner has the right to appeal the decision to the Animal Control Authority, which is designated by the Chief of Police. Currently, the Assistant Chief of Police is conducting these appeals. (See ACC 6.35.020) The police department has conducted 13 hearings with all but one upheld as declared by the Animal Control Officer.*

**5. How many Potentially Dangerous or Dangerous Dog complaints have been investigated by Animal Control? And how many of these cases were breeds that meet the Potentially Dangerous criteria?**

	2016	2017	Total
Potentially Dangerous/Dangerous Dog Cases (approx.*)	61	48	109

*As you can see, although the ACO has investigated 109 cases of Dangerous or Potentially Dangerous dogs, only 25 have registered their animals with the city as a result of acts deeming them Dangerous or Potentially Dangerous. Currently, the Animal Control Officer does not follow up on each declaration of Dangerous or Potentially Dangerous. This is due, in part, to the fact that there is only one Animal Control Officer. In 2018, Council has approved an additional officer.*

*As a note, in both years, "Pit-Bull Terriers" consisted of 78 of the cases investigated. The remaining were other breeds that either met the breed designation as Potentially Dangerous, or the dog's actions dictated the declaration by the Animal Control Officer.*

*\*Cases were identified by word searching in the narrative of the investigation.*

**6. How has some of these Potentially Dangerous or Dangerous Dog cases been investigated?**

	2016	2017
Infractions	4	3
Citations	33	21
Impounds	9	7
Pit-Bull Terrier Breed	41 (67%)	37 (77%)

**7. Are there any pro-active measures that the Animal Control Authority is utilizing to manage or enforce the statutes reference Potentially Dangerous or Dangerous Dogs in the city?**

*As noted earlier, the Animal Control Officers do not follow up on all Potentially Dangerous Dogs based on the breed specific registration requirement. Having to follow up on 372 registrations every year would be very time consuming and problematic given there will only be two Animal Control Officers in the city.*

*Pro-active measure in the future could be in the form of more community awareness and education as to the ordinance and it's requirements.*