



TOWN OF ESSEX VERMONT

81 MAIN STREET, ESSEX JUNCTION, VERMONT 05452
Fax: 878-1353 • E-mail: manager@essex.org • Website: www.essex.org

Town of Essex Response Procedure for Dog Bite Incidents

- The police department will conduct an investigation into any incident reported to the police department where an individual has been bitten or attacked by a domestic pet or wolf-hybrid.
- The investigation will attempt to determine the date, time and location of the incident, the name of the victim, the name and address of the owner of the domestic pet, the nature and extent of injuries.
- The police department will file a written report with the Town Health Officer and notify the Animal Control Warden (ACW).
- The ACW (or a police officer) will explain to the victim the procedures established by Vermont law. A copy of Title 20 V.S.A. Section 3546 will be provided to the victim.
- Should the victim elect to submit a qualifying written complaint with the Selectboard a hearing date will be scheduled within 7 days of receipt of the complaint. The victim and the owner(s) of the domestic pet or wolf-hybrid will be provided with the date, time and location of the hearing.
- Following an investigation and hearing, the Selectboard may issue an order for the protection of the public in accordance with Title 20 V.S.A. Section 3546. The victim and owner(s) will be provided with information regarding the outcome of the hearing and the decision of the Selectboard.

TOWN MANAGER	PARKS AND RECREATION	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	PUBLIC WORKS	ASSESSOR	FINANCE	TOWN CLERK	LIBRARY	POLICE
878-1341	878-1342	878-1343	878-1344	878-1345	878-1359	879-0413	879-0313	878-8331

The Vermont Statutes Online

Title 20: Internal Security and Public Safety

Chapter 193: DOMESTIC PET OR WOLF-HYBRID CONTROL

Sub-Chapter 001: General Provisions

20 V.S.A. § 3546. Investigation of vicious domestic pets or wolf-hybrids; order

§ 3546. Investigation of vicious domestic pets or wolf-hybrids; order

(a) When a domestic pet or wolf-hybrid has bitten a person while the domestic pet or wolf-hybrid is off the premises of the owner or keeper, and the person bitten requires medical attention for the attack, such person may file a written complaint with the legislative body of the municipality. The complaint shall contain the time, date and place where the attack occurred, the name and address of the victim or victims, and any other facts that may assist the legislative body in conducting its investigation required by subsection (b) of this section.

(b) The legislative body, within seven days from receipt of the complaint, shall investigate the charges and hold a hearing on the matter. If the owner of the domestic pet or wolf-hybrid which is the subject of the complaint can be ascertained with due diligence, said owner shall be provided with a written notice of the time, date and place of hearing and the facts of the complaint.

(c) If the domestic pet or wolf-hybrid is found to have bitten the victim without provocation, the municipal officials shall make such order for the protection of persons as the facts and circumstances of the case may require, including, without limitation, that the domestic pet or wolf-hybrid is disposed of in a humane way, muzzled, chained, or confined. The order shall be sent by certified mail, return receipt requested. A person who, after receiving notice, fails to comply with the terms of the order shall be subject to the penalties provided in section 3550 of this chapter.

(d) The procedures provided in this section shall apply if the domestic pet or wolf-hybrid is not a rabies suspect. If a member of the legislative body or a municipal official designated by the legislative body determines that the animal is a rabies suspect, the provisions of subchapter 5 of this chapter and the rules of the department of health shall apply.

(e) The procedures provided in this section shall not apply if the voters of a municipality, at a special or annual meeting duly warned for the purpose, have authorized the legislative body of the municipality to regulate domestic pets or wolf-hybrids by ordinances that are inconsistent with this section, in which case those ordinances shall apply. (Amended 1977, No. 215 (Adj. Sess.), § 2, eff. April 12, 1978; 1993, No. 213 (Adj. Sess.), § 4, eff. June 15, 1994; 2007, No. 121 (Adj. Sess.), § 15.)