

## How are dangerous/aggressive dog cases investigated?

- The victim signs an affidavit detailing the incident.
- An investigation is started by ACS.
- Once completed, the ACS Director or their designee reviews the case and makes a determination based upon the assembled evidence.
- The dog owner and victim will be notified of the determination by certified letter or personal delivery.
- The owner of the animal deemed dangerous or aggressive must abide by legally required restrictions or face penalties including citations and fines.
- If declared dangerous or aggressive, the owner has the right to appeal the decision to the municipal court.

## Dangerous Dog Requirements

### Dogs Must Be:

- Licensed
- Wear a special identification collar
- Kept in a secure enclosure
- Muzzled when outside
- Microchipped
- Spayed or Neutered

### The Owner Must:

- Purchase a \$100,000 liability insurance policy
- Post a special warning sign
- Attend a pet ownership class
- Allow annual inspection

## Aggressive Dog Requirements

Aggressive dogs are categorized into three levels based upon the circumstances of the attack. The levels have different time frame restrictions ranging from one to three years.

### Each Level Includes:

- Licensing
- Microchipping
- Secure enclosures
- Proper restraints
- Special warning signage
- Muzzle

\* If a dangerous/aggressive dog is a stray and caught by ACS, the dog will be euthanized and sent for State required rabies testing.

# ACS Mission Statement

Animal Care Services is dedicated to making San Antonio a city in which every animal receives responsible care. Our Strategic Plan will help guide the community to achieve our "No Kill" goal.

The City of San Antonio is committed to enhancing our community's quality of life by providing both animal control and humane care for the animals in our shelter. This mission to protect pets and people involves providing shelter for lost and stray pets, medical care and vaccinations for incoming animals, increased enforcement and public education.

Animal Care Services supports efforts aimed at decreasing euthanasia and finding loving homes for our community's abandoned dogs and cats. Included are programs for:

- Low Cost Spay/Neuter
- Low Cost Vaccinations
- Adoptions
- Responsible Pet Ownership

All available  
pets can be  
seen on the  
web at:  
[www.saacs.net](http://www.saacs.net)



City of San Antonio  
Animal Care Services  
4710 State Highway 151  
San Antonio, Texas 78227  
210-207-4PET  
[www.saacs.net](http://www.saacs.net)

# Pet Licensing & Regulations

Licensing your pet is the law.

[www.saacs.net](http://www.saacs.net)

# Pet Licensing and Regulations

## Rabies Vaccination

All dogs, cats and domestic ferrets must be vaccinated against rabies by sixteen (16) weeks of age by a licensed veterinarian. Booster vaccinations are required by State, County and City law one year following the initial rabies vaccination and then at one or three year intervals depending on the vaccine used. Other vaccinations are highly recommended and you should establish a relationship with a veterinarian for your pet.

## Licensing

All dogs and cats must be licensed by sixteen (16) weeks of age and annually thereafter with the City of San Antonio, Animal Care Services Division. Licenses are \$5 for sterilized animals and \$50 for unsterilized or intact pets. Proof of current rabies vaccination must be demonstrated when the license is issued. Dogs should wear license tags on their collar at all times when outside.

## Microchip

This is not a legal requirement. However, ACS encourages microchipping because it is the only foolproof way to ensure that your pet can be returned home if ever lost or stolen. Dog and cat microchipping is simple. It does not hurt your pet, require surgery, and will not wear out. A veterinarian will inject the microchip, about the size of a grain of rice (12mm), beneath the surface of your pet's skin between the shoulder blades. If your pet is microchipped, make sure they stay protected by updating your contact information as needed. ACS offers microchipping for \$15.



Microchips are a permanent pet ID. It is read by passing a microchip scanner over the pet's shoulder blades. Each microchip has a unique cat or dog ID code and positively identifies the pet.

## Animal Permits/Licenses

The revised Chapter 5 Ordinance institutes a permitting and licensing process for a variety of animal-related concerns beyond general pet licensing. There are permits governing areas like animal-related businesses as well as residential pet concerns like litter permits, excess animals, livestock and cat colonies. Permit applications and instructions can be found on the ACS website. All fees are payable to the City of San Antonio.



## Animal Limits

A maximum number of eight (8) cats or five (5) dogs or an aggregate number of eight (8) may be permitted at a residence within the City limits. The total number of domestic fowl and livestock allowed at a residence is five (5) which may include: up to three (3) domestic fowl; and up to two (2) animals from the following classes of livestock: equines, bovines, sheep, goats and llamas.

## Outdoor Cats

All outdoor cats must be spayed or neutered.

## Prohibited Species

It is unlawful to keep wild animals and many other species within the City of San Antonio. Such animals include monkeys and other nonhuman primates, wolf hybrids, coyotes, foxes, exotic cats, bears, skunks, raccoons, miniature Vietnamese pot-bellied pigs, poisonous reptiles, crocodiles and related species.

## Abandoned Animals

It is unlawful to abandon an animal within the City Limits. An abandoned animal is any animal abandoned while in the person's custody without making reasonable arrangements for assumption of custody by another person.

## Sale of Animals

No live animals shall be sold, traded, bartered, leased, rented, given away, or displayed for a commercial purpose on any roadside, public right-of-way, commercial parking lot or at any flea market or festival.

## Pets in Cars

It is illegal to leave any animal in a standing or parked vehicle. Any animal care officer or police officer is authorized to use reasonable force, including the breaking of a side window, to remove a pet from a car whenever it appears the animal's health or safety is endangered.

## "Pooper Scooper" Law

A pet owner or keeper shall not walk his/her dogs without a leash restraint, and shall not guide or take animals onto the yards or driveways of property not owned, leased or occupied by the animal owner for the purpose of allowing the animal to defecate, but shall keep his/her animal in the public right-of-way, and shall carry a container and scooper for the sanitary removal of his/her animal's fecal matter from the public right-of-way.

# Aggressive/Dangerous Animals

How does state law define a dangerous or aggressive animal?

A legally defined "dangerous dog" is an animal that:

- Makes an unprovoked attack that causes bodily injury outside the animal's enclosure/owner's property OR
- Causes a person to reasonably believe that the animal will attack and cause bodily injury.

Aggressive animals are generally those involved in an attack on other domestic animals or livestock which can occur on or off the owner's property.

**Dial 311 to report all animal related concerns.**