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Arapahoe County strengthens its vicious dog ordinance

LITTLETON, CO --- The Board of County Commissioners Tuesday approved stiffer penalties for vicious and aggressive dogs in Arapahoe County.

Changes approved by the Board of County Commissioners include strengthening the definitions of “attack” and “vicious dog”; defining what constitutes an “aggressive dog”; clarifying when a vicious dog can be seized and impounded at the owner’s expense; requiring a mandatory court appearance by persons violating the Vicious Dog ordinance on the first offense; and increasing the fine to a minimum of \$500 and a maximum of \$1,000 for a vicious dog first offense.

Arapahoe County is unable to enact breed specific bans because the County is a statutory county and must follow a 2004 state law that does not allow the County to pass breed specific bans. Only home rule communities, such as Denver and Aurora, are able to enact breed specific bans.

For more information about the changes to the County’s dangerous dog ordinance, contact Animal Control at 720-874-6750 or visit the County’s web site at www.co.arapahoe.co.us

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