



In response to public safety concerns about dog attacks, municipalities around the country are looking for more effective ways to deal with dangerous dogs. Management of dangerous dogs is a complex issue, especially in a metropolitan area where the policies of one municipality are almost certain to affect its neighbors. The Coalition for Living Safely with Dogs was established by Colorado animal health, care, and control professionals to promote a proactive, communitywide approach to the issue of dangerous dogs.

The Coalition has come together for three purposes:

- To offer assistance to municipalities seeking to establish and enforce more effective dangerous dog laws.
- To increase public awareness about what makes a good dog owner, the nature of dogs, and the factors that contribute to dog attacks.
- To encourage all citizens to recognize and report aggressive and dangerous dogs and to support local animal control.

The Coalition believes that the existence of dangerous dogs arises from a complex set of social issues and cannot be effectively addressed by breed specific legislation.

- A dog's tendency to bite depends on at least five interacting factors, largely determined by its human owner: heredity, early experience, later socialization and training, health, and victim behavior.
- Dogs are more likely to become aggressive and eventually bite when they are unsocialized, unsupervised, and not spayed or neutered.
- Any dog will bite, given the right set of circumstances.
- Dangerous dogs are produced by negligent and/or abusive owners, who will simply acquire another dog if the breed they own is banned.

The Coalition has compiled resource documents to facilitate both public discourse and civic action on this subject.

- Living Safely with Dogs: Tips for Dog Owners and Everyone
- Current Colorado State Law Regarding Dangerous Dogs
- Dangerous Dog Information and Resource List

We encourage you to utilize these resources as you consider responses to dangerous and potentially dangerous dogs in your community. Coalition representatives welcome the opportunity to meet with policy makers committed to creating safer communities for both people and pets.

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**The Coalition for Living Safely with Dogs is a group of Colorado animal health, care, and control professionals that exists to promote understanding of the human and animal behaviors that impact community safety and to reframe the civic conversation about dangerous dogs.**

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| ▪ All Breed Rescue Network (ABRN)                                  | ▪ Colorado Federation of Animal Welfare Agencies (CFAWA) |
| ▪ Animal Assistance Foundation (AAF)                               | ▪ Colorado Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA)         |
| ▪ Colorado Association of Animal Control Officers (CAACO)          | ▪ Denver Area Veterinary Medical Society (DAVMS)         |
| ▪ Colorado Association of Certified Veterinary Technicians (CACVT) | ▪ Metro Denver Shelter Alliance (MDSA)                   |
|  | ▪ Summerlee Foundation                                   |

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