



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Texas Department of State
Health Services

LOCAL RABIES CONTROL AUTHORITY

The Commissioners Court of Brown County
(governing body) (city or county)

designates Brown County Sheriff as the Local Rabies Control
(job title or name)

Authority (LRCA) for the purposes of the RABIES CONTROL ACT OF 1981.

This appointment became effective 5/5/2025.
(date)

AUTHORIZING PERSON'S NAME (print): Shane Britton

AUTHORIZING PERSON'S TITLE: Brown County Judge

AUTHORIZING PERSON'S SIGNATURE: [Signature]

Please print the name and contact information of the appointed individual:

NAME: Sheriff Vance Hill

AGENCY: Brown County Sheriff's Office

STREET ADDRESS: 1050 W. Commerce

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: Brownwood, TX 76801

JOB TITLE: Sheriff

TELEPHONE: 325 - 646 - 5510 x 4301

FAX: 325 - 643 - 3238

E-MAIL ADDRESS: vance.hill@browncountytexas.org

RETURN THIS FORM TO: Department of State Health Services
Zoonosis Control
1301 S. Bowen Rd., Ste 200
Arlington, Texas 76013

May 5, 2025

(Exhibit #9)

Brown County Sheriff's Office General Manual

Brown County Sheriff's Office Administrative Directive	Directive Number 03.011	Effective Date 10/01/2021	Revised Date
Division: All Enforcement Personnel	Supersedes: N/A		
Approved By: Vance Hill, Sheriff	Title: Dog Complaints/ Rabies Exposure		

Dog Complaints/Rabies Exposure

POLICY:

These guidelines are intended to provide deputies with guidance on how to effectively handle calls for service regarding dog complaints in the county. These calls are to include dogs at large, vicious or dangerous dogs, and calls related to rabies exposures and vaccinations.

It is the responsibility of each deputy to enforce animal complaints in compliance with the Tx. Health and Safety Code. Deputies must be familiar with chapter 822, and any other sections pertaining to dogs.

DEFINITIONS: Section 822.041

- **Dangerous Dog-** means a dog that:
 - (2) **A.** makes an unprovoked attack on a person that causes bodily injury and occurs in a place other than an enclosure in which the dog was being kept and that was reasonably certain to prevent the dog from leaving the enclosure on its own; or
 - (2) **B.** commits unprovoked acts in a place other than an enclosure in which the dog was being kept and that was reasonably certain to prevent the dog from leaving the enclosure on its own and these acts cause a person to reasonably believe that the dog will attack and cause bodily injury to that person.
- **Animal Control Authority-** A county sheriff in an area with no animal control officer...
- **Owner-** means a person who owns or has custody or control of the dog.

DISCUSSION:

This policy is to insure consistent enforcement of laws and regulations pertaining to calls for service involving dogs. This policy also gives consistent guidance on the application process of dangerous dogs and rabies vaccination laws and enforcement.

Dogs Running at Large or Stray:

Brown County does not have a leash law; therefore, dogs are permitted to run at large unless they are dangerous or prohibited from running at large.

At times these dogs running at large or stray can be a nuisance or be worrisome to residents. Complainants should be instructed they can take the animal to the humane society during normal business hours. In some cases, with the complainant being elderly or medically unable to transport the animal then the deputies have discretion to transport the animal to the shelter.

Certain Dogs Prohibited from Running At Large

Section 822.012 prohibits dogs or coyotes from running at large if they are accustomed to run, worry or kill livestock, domestic animals or fowls. This does include the attack of any of these described animals.

Offense reports will be completed when a violation of this statute is committed. Notice will be provided to the owner of the suspect animal. The owner will be informed the animal is no longer allowed to run at large, utilizing form 03.011d, to be completed by the deputy. On the second or subsequent call involving the same suspect animal a citation will be issued for violation of this statute.

Dogs That Attack Animals:

Section 822.013 allows any person witnessing the attack, pending attack or the recent attack of livestock, domestic animals, or fowls to kill the attacking dog without liability. A person may also impound the attacking animal and immediately notify the sheriff's office.

The owner of the dog is responsible for impound fees and any damages done by the dog.

Offense reports will be completed when a violation of this statute is committed. Again, the owner will be notified the animal is no longer allowed to run at large, utilizing form 03.011d.

Determination of Dangerous Dogs:

Section 822.0421 provides guidelines for determining a dog to be dangerous. If an individual reports an offense involving an act as defined in (definitions) 822.041, an offense report will be completed during the investigation.

After receiving a sworn statement of any witnesses, and the deputy determines the dog to be dangerous, the deputy shall;

Complete form 03.011a.

Notify the owner in writing of the determination within fifteen days of finding, utilizing form 03.011b. This form is to be completed by the investigating deputy. Notice is suggested to be as soon as possible.

Inform the owner of his right to appeal the decision to the justice court or county court having jurisdiction, by providing packet containing copies of Tx Health and Safety Code sections 822.041, 822.042 and 822.0421.

Forward to justice court with jurisdiction a copy of the report, statements and finding.

The only exception to this policy as to a written report or determination of a dangerous dog is if the dog bites/attacks its owner and there is not serious bodily injury.

Rabies Vaccination Requirements

Section 826.021 requires any dog or cat before the age of four months (16 weeks) be vaccinated against rabies and at regular intervals as indicated by the manufacturer or the vaccine.

The vaccine must be administered by or in the presence of a licensed veterinarian. The veterinarian shall issue a vaccine certificate for each animal vaccinated.

Rabies Vaccination Enforcement

It is a class C misdemeanor for the first violation of failure to comply with the vaccination requirements. When investigating any incident in this policy the deputy will confirm the animals involved are vaccinated in compliance with the law. It is the owner's responsibility to provide the necessary vaccine certificates.

Reports of Humane Exposure to Rabies

Any person having knowledge of a potential exposure should report the incident to the sheriff's office for documentation in report form.

When a dog, cat or domestic ferret has bitten a human, the custodian of that animal will place the animal in quarantine, in a safe and secure enclosure, for a period of **10 days**, if the animal is up to date with its rabies vaccination and or 16 weeks of age. The custodian will view the animal at least twice daily. A deputy will observe the animal at minimal of the first day of quarantine and the last day of quarantine on any case involving quarantine.

A. Unvaccinated or Expired vaccination

An animal determined to be unvaccinated or expired vaccination may be humanely killed and a suitable sample be submitted for rabies testing. As an alternative to killing the animal, it may be quarantined for a period of **30 days**.

B. Exposure by Stray or Unowned Animals

An animal determined to be stray or unowned may be humanely killed and a suitable sample be submitted for rabies testing. As an alternative to killing the animal, it may be quarantined for a period of **30 days**.

Disposition of Animals Exposed to Rabies

Animals not currently vaccinated which have been bitten by, directly exposed by physical contact or directly exposed to fresh tissues of a rabid animal shall be immediately vaccinated against rabies and given boosters during the third and eighth weeks of a **90-day** quarantine period. The animal may also be humanely killed.

Animals currently vaccinated which have been bitten by, directly exposed by physical contact or directly exposed to fresh tissues of a rabid animal shall be immediately given a booster rabies vaccination and placed in quarantine for a period of **45 days**.

Examples are given for the requirements of quarantine durations. Each time an animal is quarantined the owner shall be given a packet containing the TX Administrative Code Chapter 169. The deputy will complete form 03.011c.

If at any time the animal becomes sick, during any quarantine period, with signs of rabies, then the animal shall be humanely killed and tested for rabies in accordance with state law. All specimens for rabies shall be taken by a veterinarian. No animal should be killed without first coordinating with a veterinarian for the collection of the sample.



Brown County Sheriff's Department

Notice to Owner of Dangerous Dog

822.041. Definitions.

In this subchapter:

(1) "Animal control authority" means a municipal or county animal control office with authority over the area where the dog is kept or a county sheriff in an area with no animal control office.

(2) "Dangerous dog" means a dog that:

(A) makes an unprovoked attack on a person that causes bodily injury and occurs in a place other than an enclosure in which the dog was being kept and that was reasonably certain to prevent the dog from leaving the enclosure on its own; or

(B) commits unprovoked acts in a place other than an enclosure in which the dog was being kept and that was reasonably certain to prevent the dog from leaving the enclosure on its own and those acts cause a person to reasonably believe that the dog will attack and cause bodily injury to that person.

(3) "Dog" means a domesticated animal that is a member of the canine family.

(4) "Secure enclosure" means a fenced area or structure that is:

(A) locked;

(B) capable of preventing the entry of the general public, including children;

(C) capable of preventing the escape or release of a dog;

(D) clearly marked as containing a dangerous dog; and

(E) in conformance with the requirements for enclosures established by the local animal control authority.

(5) "Owner" means a person who owns or has custody or control of the dog.

§822.042. Requirements for owner of dangerous dog.

(a) Not later than the 30th day after a person learns that the person is the owner of a dangerous dog, the person shall:

(1) register the dangerous dog with the animal control authority for the area in which the dog is kept;

(2) restrain the dangerous dog at all times on a leash in the immediate control of a person or in a secure enclosure;

(3) obtain liability insurance coverage or show financial responsibility in an amount of at least \$100,000 to cover damages resulting from an attack by the dangerous dog causing bodily injury to a person and provide proof of the required liability insurance coverage or financial responsibility to the animal control authority for the area in which the dog is kept; and

(4) comply with an applicable municipal or county regulation, requirement, or restriction on dangerous dogs.

(b) The owner of a dangerous dog who does not comply with Subsection (a) shall deliver the dog to the animal control authority not later than the 30th day after the owner learns that the dog is a dangerous dog.

(c) If, on application of any person, a justice court, county court, or municipal court finds, after notice and hearing as provided by Section 822.0423, that the owner of a dangerous dog has failed to comply with Subsection (a) or (b), the court shall order the animal control authority to seize the dog and shall issue a warrant authorizing the seizure.

The authority shall seize the dog or order its seizure and shall provide for the impoundment of the dog in secure and humane conditions.

(d) The owner shall pay any cost or fee assessed by the municipality or county related to the seizure, acceptance, impoundment, or destruction of the dog. The governing body of the municipality or county may prescribe the amount of the fees.

(e) The court shall order the animal control authority to humanely destroy the dog if the owner has not complied with Subsection (a) before the 11th day after the date on which the dog is seized or delivered to the authority. The court shall order the authority to return the dog to the owner if the owner complies with Subsection (a) before the 11th day after the date on which the dog is seized or delivered to the authority.

(f) The court may order the humane destruction of a dog if the owner of the dog has not been located before the 15th day after the seizure and impoundment of the dog.

(g) For purposes of this section, a person learns that the person is the owner of a dangerous dog when:

- (1) the owner knows of an attack described in Section 822.041(2)(A) or (B);**
- (2) the owner receives notice that a justice court, county court, or municipal court has found that the dog is a dangerous dog under Section 822.0423; or**
- (3) the owner is informed by the animal control authority that the dog is a dangerous dog under Section 822.0421.**

§822.0421. Determination that dog is dangerous.

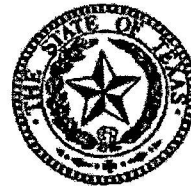
(a) If a person reports an incident described by Section 822.041(2), the animal control authority may investigate the incident. If, after receiving the sworn statements of any witnesses, the animal control authority determines the dog is a dangerous dog, it shall notify the owner of that fact.

(b) An owner, not later than the 15th day after the date the owner is notified that a dog owned by the owner is a dangerous dog, may appeal the determination of the animal control authority to a justice, county, or municipal court of competent jurisdiction. An owner may appeal the decision of the justice, county, or municipal court in the same manner as appeal for other cases from the justice, county, or municipal court.



Brown County Sheriff's Office

Affidavit for Determination of Dangerous Dog



IN THE NAME AND BY AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

I, _____, being duly sworn, do state upon my oath that
I have personal knowledge, or
I have good reason to believe and do believe based upon the following information:

and I charge that heretofore, and before the making and filing of this complaint, on or about the ____ day of
_____, 20 ____, in Precinct _____, in _____ County, State of Texas,

_____, Defendant, did then and there: own or have custody or control of a
dangerous dog(s) and the dog(s) was/were not kept in a secured enclosure; capable of preventing the
entry of the general public, including children; capable of preventing the escape or release of the
dog(s); and clearly marked as containing a dangerous dog(s).

Contrary to the Laws of the State of Texas, and
AGAINST THE PEACE AND DIGNITY OF THE STATE.

Complainant

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME by _____, a credible person,
this _____ day of _____, A. D. 20_____.

(Name)

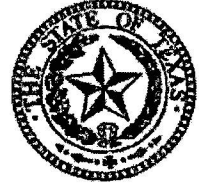
(Title)

_____, Texas
(City and/or County)



Brown County Sheriff's Office

Dangerous Dog Notice



Case #: _____

Name of Owner: _____

Address of Owner: _____

Dog Description and Name: _____

Brief Circumstances: _____

I certify that I hand-delivered this notice to the above-listed person on the date and time that appears below next to my signature and that the person warned either signed his/her name or refused to sign as indicated below.

DATE TIME

PEACE OFFICER, STATE OF TEXAS
AGENCY: BCSO

RECEIPT OF NOTICE

I received a copy of this NOTICE on the date and time indicated below.

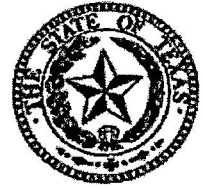
DATE TIME

SIGNATURE OF PERSON WARNED
☐ REFUSED TO SIGN



Brown County Sheriff's Office

Procedures for Quarantining or
Impoundment of Animals
Exposed to Rabies



CASE #: _____

DATE: _____

I, _____, have received a copy of the Texas
Administrative Code Title 25. Health Services Part 1. Department of State Health
Services Chapter 169. Zoonosis Control Rabies and Eradication.

I understand that I must comply with this code by providing an approved
quarantine facility outlined in Chapter 169.26 for _____ days beginning
____/____/____ and ending ____/____/____.

The animals quarantined shall also comply with Chapter 169.30 Disposition of
Domestic Animals Exposed to Rabies.

Animals and quarantine facilities will be subject to inspection by the Sheriff's
Office, at any time, within the time period.

Officer

Owner's Signature

Owner Name (Please Print)

Address

Phone #

Description of Animals Quarantined



Brown County Sheriff's Office

Dog Prohibited From Running At Large



Case #: _____

Name of Owner: _____

Address of Owner: _____

Dog Description and Name: _____

Brief Circumstances: _____

DATE TIME

PEACE OFFICER, STATE OF TEXAS
AGENCY: BCSO

RECEIPT OF NOTICE

I received a copy of this NOTICE on the date and time indicated below.

DATE TIME

SIGNATURE OF PERSON WARNED
☐ REFUSED TO SIGN