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**Tenn. Code Ann. § 44-17-120** ([Copy w/ Cite](#))

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*Tenn. Code Ann. § 44-17-120*

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\*\*\* Current through the 2016 Regular Session and the 2nd Extraordinary Session of the 109th Tennessee General Assembly  
\*\*\*

Title 44 Animals And Animal Husbandry  
Chapter 17 Dogs and Cats  
Part 1 Dog and Cat Dealers

Tenn. Code Ann. § **44-17-120** (2016)

**44-17-120. Destruction of dog causing death or serious injury to human -- Notice to dog's owner.**

**(a)** Any dog that attacks a human and causes death or serious bodily injury may be destroyed upon the order of the judge of the general sessions court of the county wherein the attack occurred. Such orders shall be granted on the petition of the district attorney general for the county. The petition shall name the owner of the dog, and the owner shall be given notice in accordance with Rule 4.01 of the Tennessee Rules of Civil Procedure, that if the owner does not appear before the court within five (5) days of the receipt thereof and show cause why the dog should not be destroyed, then the order shall issue and the dog shall be destroyed.

**(b)** Notwithstanding subsection (a), in counties having a population in excess of eight hundred thousand (800,000), or having a metropolitan form of government and a population in excess of one hundred thousand (100,000), according to the 2000 federal census or any subsequent federal census, a municipality or county is authorized to adopt local ordinances authorizing