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Title 4. Animals

Oklahoma Statutes Citationized

Title 4. Animals

□Chapter 3 - Dogs

Section 42.4 - Failure to Restrain Dangerous Dog - Releasing Dog on Law Enforcement Officer - Criminal Penalties -

Defenses

Cite as: O.S. §, ___ __

A. It is unlawful for the owner of any dog that previously has:

- 1. When unprovoked inflicted bites on any person or severely injured any person either on public or private property; or
- 2. When unprovoked created an imminent threat of injury or death to any person,

to permit such dog to run at large or aggressively bite or attack any person while such person is lawfully upon public or private property. Upon conviction, the violator shall be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than one (1) year, or by imposition of a fine not to exceed Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00), or by both such fine and imprisonment. In addition, the owner shall be liable for damages as provided in Section 42.1 of Title 4 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

- B. The owner of any dangerous dog as defined by Section 44 of Title 4 of the Oklahoma Statutes, or any dog that is described in subsection A of this section, that attacks any person causing the death of such person shall, upon conviction, be guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment in the custody of the Department of Corrections for not more than five (5) years, or by the imposition of a fine not to exceed Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00), or by both such fine and imprisonment.
- C. It is unlawful for any person to release any dog upon a law enforcement officer while the officer is in the performance of official duties. Upon conviction, the violator shall be guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment in the custody of the Department of Corrections for not more than five (5) years, or imprisonment in the county jail for not more than one (1) year, or by imposition of a fine not exceeding Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00), or by both such fine and imprisonment.
- D. It shall be an affirmative defense to a prosecution pursuant to subsection A or B of this section that the injury or death was sustained by a person who, at the time, was committing a willful criminal act upon the premises of the owner of the dog or was assaulting the owner of the dog.

Historical Data

Laws 2006, HB 2813, c. 262, § 1, emerg. eff. June 7, 2006.

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