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§ 8-1901

## Definitions.

For the purposes of this chapter, the term:

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(1)

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(A) "Dangerous dog" means any dog that without provocation:

—  
(i) Causes a serious injury to a person or domestic animal; or

—  
(ii. Engages in behavior described in paragraph (4)(A)(i) of this section subsequent to having been determined to be a potentially dangerous dog pursuant to § 8-1902. —

(B) The term “dangerous dog” shall not include dogs used by law enforcement officials when the dog is being used for legitimate law enforcement purposes. —

(2) “Impound” means taken into the custody of the Mayor. —

(3) “Owner” means any person, firm, corporation, organization, or department possessing, harboring, keeping, having an interest in, or having control or custody of a dog. —

(4)

—  
(A) “Potentially dangerous dog” means any dog that:  
  
—

(i) Without provocation, chases or menaces a person or domestic animal in an aggressive manner, causing an injury to a person or domestic animal that is less severe than a serious injury;

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(ii. In a menacing manner, approaches without provocation any person or domestic animal as if to attack, or has demonstrated a propensity to attack without provocation or otherwise to endanger the safety of human beings or domestic animals;

or 

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Is running at-large and has been impounded by an animal control agency 3 or more times in the District within any 12-month period.

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(B) The term “potentially dangerous dog” shall not include dogs used by law enforcement officials when the dog is being used for legitimate law enforcement purposes. 

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(5) “Proper enclosure” means secure confinement indoors or secure confinement outdoors in a locked structure designed and constructed to:

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(A) Deter escape of the dog; \_\_

(B) Protect the dog from the elements; and \_\_

(C) Prevent contact with the dog from humans and other domestic animals. \_\_

(6) “Serious injury” means any physical injury that results in broken bones or lacerations requiring multiple sutures or cosmetic surgery. \_\_

## History

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