

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** The Honorable Carrie M. Austin  
Chairman, Committee on the Budget and Government Operations

**From:** Sandra Alfred  
Executive Director  
Commission on Animal Care and Control

**CC:** Maria Guerra  
Mayor's Office of Legislative Counsel and Government Affairs

**Date:** October 31, 2012

**Re:** Request for Information from Annual Appropriation Committee Hearing

**Ref ID:** 121

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The attached information is in response to questions posed at our department's hearing on October 24, 2012 to discuss the 2013 budget.

Alderman John Arena, of the 45th Ward requested information relating to dog bite investigations by Animal Care and Control (ACC).

ACC investigates dog bites reported to the Chicago Police Department. The preliminary bite investigation involves interviewing witnesses and gathering evidence to determine whether violations of the Municipal Code of Chicago have occurred. Every animal that bites must be taken to a licensed veterinarian to be observed for signs of rabies for 10 days.

Where an animal has caused serious injury or shown a pattern of aggressive behavior, ACC performs a dangerous dog investigation to determine if the attacking animal is safe to remain in Chicago. If circumstances warrant, ACC can impound the animal during the investigation. If the dog is determined to be dangerous, ACC may impose ownership restrictions to reduce the possibility of future incidents.

Chapter 7-12 of the Municipal Code of Chicago outlines both the penalty for failing to restrain one's animal and the process of determining whether an animal is dangerous.

As always, please let me know if you have any further questions.