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Vicious & Restricted Dog Ordinance Information – Updated 9-1-21

ACTIVITY: _____ **OFFICER:** _____ **PHONE:** _____

What happens now?

Santa Barbara County Animal Services (SBCAS) will investigate whether the dog’s behavior met the definition of “Vicious” or “Restricted” as defined by one of the ordinances listed below. An administrative hearing will be held if there is likely cause that the dog may qualify as “Vicious” or “Restricted”.

When will I be informed of the hearing?

Within the next 15 days you will receive advance notice of the hearing. During the hearing, you may testify, provide medical records, photos, and witnesses (persons that observed the current incident or any previous incidents, and/or who know the people or animals involved).

What happens to the dog during this process?

If SBCAS believes the dog poses an immediate threat to public safety, the dog will be impounded and will remain at the shelter until a hearing decision is rendered. Alternatively, under certain circumstances, SBCAS may allow the dog to remain at home or at another approved location.

What if the dog is found to be Vicious or Restricted?

If the dog is determined to be “Restricted” it will be returned to the owner after the owner has met the requirements established by the Hearing Officer and paid all fees due to SBCAS. Requirements may include, but are not limited to, additional secured fencing, requiring the dog to wear a muzzle while in public spaces, and proof of liability insurance. If the dog is determined to be “Vicious,” it will not be returned to the owner and may be ordered euthanized by SBCAS. In rare circumstances, with SBCAS approval, the dog may be released to an approved lifelong sanctuary at the owner’s expense.

Will I receive a copy of the hearing documents?

Copies of documents will not be provided during the hearing; however, you may submit a “Public Records Request” at any time using the following link:
[https://santabarbaracountyca.govqa.us/WEBAPP/rs/\(S\(et5doqyu2zeqor0jvkqpyywk\)\)/SupportHome.aspx](https://santabarbaracountyca.govqa.us/WEBAPP/rs/(S(et5doqyu2zeqor0jvkqpyywk))/SupportHome.aspx)
 or by visiting the Santa Barbara County Animal Service’s website, <https://countyofsb.org/phd/animal/home.sbc>, the link can be found under “Resources.” Once the case is closed, the records would be made available with any confidential information redacted.

Where can I find the Vicious and Restricted Dog Ordinance?

JURISDICTION	WEB LINK TO ORDINANCE
Unincorporated County, Buellton, Solvang	http://www.municode.com/library/ca/santa_barbara_county/codes/code_of_ordinances
City of Lompoc	http://qcode.us/codes/lompoc/
City of Santa Maria	http://www.qcode.us/codes/santamaria/