

## DEFINITION OF DANGEROUS DOGS

### **NRS 202.500 Dangerous or vicious dogs: Unlawful acts; penalties.**

1. For the purposes of this section, a dog is:
  - (a) “Dangerous” if:
    - (1) It is so declared pursuant to subsection 2; or
    - (2) Without provocation, on two separate occasions within 18 months, it behaved menacingly, to a degree that would lead a reasonable person to defend himself or herself against substantial bodily harm, when the dog was:
      - (I) Off the premises of its owner or keeper; or
      - (II) Not confined in a cage, pen or vehicle.
  - (b) “Provoked” when it is tormented or subjected to pain.
  - (c) “Vicious” if:
    - (1) Without being provoked, it killed or inflicted substantial bodily harm upon a human being; or
    - (2) After its owner or keeper had been notified by a law enforcement agency that the dog is dangerous, the dog continued the behavior described in paragraph (a).
2. A dog may be declared dangerous by a law enforcement agency if it is used in the commission of a crime by its owner or keeper.
3. A dog may not be found dangerous or vicious:
  - (a) Based solely on the breed of the dog; or
  - (b) Because of a defensive act against a person who was committing or attempting to commit a crime or who provoked the dog.
4. A person who knowingly:
  - (a) Owns or keeps a vicious dog, for more than 7 days after the person has actual notice that the dog is vicious; or
  - (b) Transfers ownership of a vicious dog after the person has actual notice that the dog is vicious, is guilty of a misdemeanor.
5. If substantial bodily harm results from an attack by a dog known to be vicious, its owner or keeper is guilty of a category D felony and shall be punished as provided in [NRS 193.130](#). In lieu of, or in addition to, a penalty provided in this subsection, the judge may order the vicious dog to be humanely destroyed.
6. A local authority shall not adopt or enforce an ordinance or regulation that deems a dog dangerous or vicious based solely on the breed of the dog.
7. This section does not apply to a dog used by a law enforcement officer in the performance of his or her duty.
8. As used in this section, “local authority” means the governing board of a county, city or other political subdivision having authority to enact laws or ordinances or promulgate regulations relating to dogs. [1911 C&P § 176; RL § 6441; NCL § 10123] — (NRS A [1967, 488](#); [1993, 2887](#); [1995, 1209](#); [2013, 426](#))