

2/23/24

Case # 2024-65479

Alyssa, Mark and Brenda Larson  
3401 Noll Valley Circle  
Verona, WI 53593

### **Dangerous Animal Determination**

Alyssa, Mark and Brenda,

It is the duty of Public Health Madison & Dane County to ensure public safety. We investigate incidents involving animals that cause injury to humans or other animals, or act in a way that would cause a reasonable person to be concerned for their safety. If the incident is serious or ongoing, we may declare the animal dangerous, per Dane County Ordinance 47.18 **(Regulating Dangerous Animals)**. When an animal is declared dangerous, restrictions are imposed on the owner for keeping the animal, or the animal may be ordered to be humanely euthanized.

**On 1/29/24, your German Shepherd mix, Rocco, ran off your property and attacked two people walking nearby. The attack resulted in bites to both victims, at least one of which was so deep it was suspected of impacting a bone. One victim described Rocco knocking their friend to the ground then dragging them by their arm before biting them when they intervened.**

We have conducted a dangerous animal investigation and are declaring Rocco to be a dangerous animal. We are ordering that he be placed under restrictions as a result of this Dangerous Animal Declaration pursuant to Dane County Ordinance 47.18. We are basing this decision on:

- The attack on 1/29/24 described above
- Reports of Rocco intimidating other people who have had contact with him
- The Public Health Madison & Dane County Dangerous Animal Investigation which included a neighborhood survey and a meeting with you.

### **Restrictions:**

**Dangerous Animal Restrictions.** Any owner of an animal that has been declared dangerous pursuant to this section and placed under restrictions must comply with the following

subdivisions. The owner must provide documentation to Public Health Madison & Dane County of compliance with these subdivisions. Said documentation must be provided within thirty (30) days of the animal being declared dangerous unless otherwise specified. Failure to comply with these restrictions or additional actions by the dangerous animal that threaten public safety will result in a redetermination of this dangerous animal and further action being taken to protect public safety.

1. Rocco must have a microchip implanted with a record that contains the following information: "Dangerous Animal, contact Public Health Madison & Dane County Animal Services at 608-255-2345".
2. Rocco must be in compliance with rabies vaccination and licensing requirements.
3. The owner must post a sign no smaller than eight (8) inches by eleven (11) inches, made of metal or plastic, bearing wording such as "Warning Dangerous Animal" or "Beware of Dog", no smaller than three (3) inches high. This sign must be placed at a location where it is easily readable from the public roadway to ensure adequate warning and visibility to anyone approaching said residence/driveway.
4. When off your property, Rocco shall be muzzled and leashed at all times. The muzzle should be made in a manner that will not cause injury to the animal but that will prevent it from biting any person or animal. The leash shall be attached to a secure collar that is of sufficient strength to restrain the animal. The leash shall be no longer than four (4) feet in length and must be secured by and under the direct control and supervision of a competent adult.
5. When outside but still on the property of the owner or caretaker, the dangerous animal must be leashed/tethered or contained by physical fencing that is secure and approved by the department. Rocco must be supervised by a competent adult whenever he is outside of your home.
6. The animal is not allowed to visit any of the Madison or Dane County off leash dog parks.
7. Prior to a dangerous animal being sold or given away, the current owner must provide the name, address and telephone number of the proposed new owner to Public Health Madison & Dane County. Prior to taking physical custody of the dangerous animal, the new owner must comply with all requirements of this subsection and any other restriction the department determines to be appropriate to ensure the public's safety.
8. Prior to moving to a new residence, the owner must notify Public Health Madison & Dane County of the move and allow inspection of the property, which may result in changes or additional restrictions relating to the home and/or yard.

## NOTICE OF APPEAL RIGHTS

Pursuant to Chapter 47.18(11) of the Dane County Code of Ordinances “Administrative Review” you may appeal this decision to a subcommittee of the Board of Health for Madison and Dane County. You must file your appeal in writing and it must be postmarked (or hand-delivered) within 7 days of the date PHMDC’s Determination was mailed to you. Your request for an appeal must state the grounds upon which you believe PHMDC’s Determination should be reversed or amended. Please mail (or hand-deliver) your appeal request to Animal Services Public Health Madison & Dane County at 2300 S Park Street, Room 2010, Madison WI 53713.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janel Heinrich". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Janel" being more prominent than the last name "Heinrich".

Janel Heinrich, MPH, MA  
Executive Director / Health Officer  
210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Room 507  
Madison, WI 53703