

CITY OF BALTIMORE

SHIELA DIXON, Mayor



HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Dr. Joshua M. Sharfstein, Commissioner
210 Guilford Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21202

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Ingrid Antonio

PHONE: 443-984-2623

Ingrid.Antonio@baltimorecity.gov

Health Department Asks Public To Help Prevent Animal Attacks

BALTIMORE, MD (March 30, 2007)— In the wake of an attack by two pit bull dogs, the Baltimore City Health Department's Bureau of Animal Control is urging residents and pet owners to take the following steps to ensure that your community is safe.

- Report cases of dogs running at large and showing signs of aggression towards people to the city's 311 complaint line. Please report as much information as possible, including the time of day the animal usually runs loose, the address of the dog's owner if known and a good description of the dog in question, i.e., color, size, breed, and any distinguishing marks.
- Report all incidents of dog fighting and other forms of animal abuse to the 311 complaint line. Provide the 311 operator with as much detailed information as possible.
- Keep your animals restrained as required by Baltimore City Code. Dogs should not be allowed to run off leash. If animals are kept in a rear yard, the fencing should be adequate to keep the animals confined to that yard.
- Vaccinate your pets against rabies and keep the vaccinations updated. Any dog or cat, even in the city, can be exposed to rabies, which can in turn be transmitted to humans.
- License your dogs and cats, as required by law, so that your animals can be easily identified and returned in the event they escape from your yard.
- Report any and all animal-on-human bite incidents to the police or the health department. All such bites are required to be reported by law.

Dog owners are responsible for the care and control of their pets.

- Participating in dog fighting is a felony and upon conviction is punishable by up to 3 years in prison and/or a fine of up to \$5,000 and ordered psychological counseling. A spectator merely attending a dog fight, is guilty of a misdemeanor. If convicted, you may be punished with up to 90 days in prison and/or \$1,000 fine and psychological counseling.
- Allowing dogs to run at large can result in a \$100 citation. If you, however, are found guilty of a misdemeanor, you are subject to a fine of up to \$1,000.

“

###