**Attention Pet Owners**

We have had multiple homeowners and their pets attacked by other pets since our last newsletter, resulting in pet death, $000s in injury costs, and personal injury. The Board intends to take action to protect against injury to our neighbors.

**The Covenants require** you to control your pet.

Pets are not supposed to be outside without you being present and having them leashed or under verbal control. Verbal control means your pet is trained to listen to and obey commands. The owners whose pets have caused injury always are surprised that their pets could act violently.

**Hamilton County ordinances state that:**

Pets are not allowed to roam free. They must be controlled, with a strong enough leash that is 10ft in length or less. Owners are required to keep pets up to date on shots and have positive ID on the animals (tag on collar or implant).

If your pet attacks and injures a person or another person’s pet

* You will be cited for a violation of county law
* You’ll be interviewed by the county district attorney
* You may end up in court facing fines of up to $500 per occurrence
* Animal control law has links to Liability laws in TN. You are liable for costs resulting from your negligence (doctor and vet bills).
* Your pet will be considered legally “vicious”
	+ You will have to have it muzzled when outside your property
	+ You may be required to have a pen with ceiling and walls 2ft into the ground
	+ You may be required to have a second perimeter fence
	+ You may be required to have the dog on a leash, even on your property
* If injuries are serious, court (upon request) may force forfeiture or destruction of the animal
* If there is more than one event,
	+ it can lead to forfeiture or destruction of the animal
	+ you may be held criminally liable, including getting jail time. This is true for lack of vaccinations and IDs for your pets.
* Cats don’t tend to attack people, but they do attack other pets. The law considers an attack on another pet to be as serious as attacking a person.

Your pet is a “public nuisance animal” subject to fines up to $1500/occurrence, if it:

* Is repeatedly, at large
* Damages property
* Is “vicious”
* Makes enough noise to bother neighbors
* Creates odors affecting neighbors

IF YOU GET BITTEN

* You are required to file a report with county health services. HS will work with Animal Control (AC) to ensure you are protected against a rabies infection.
* You need to contact AC Services…which is hard to find. **Here is the number to call. (423) 624-5302 which is Humane Soc Education…ask to get to ext 232. After 5pm go to ext x1.**
* You should consider calling the Hamilton Co Sheriff’s non-911 number…**423-622-0022**.
* The sheriffs will have an easier time contacting Animal Control than you will. AC will determine whether rabies shots are up to date and quarantine the animal if appropriate.
* Protect against infection. Consult your doctor, who will likely prescribe antibiotics. Monitor the wound area for signs of infection.
* Everett Whitaker at (423) 551-1402 is the neighbor standing by to support you if you are experiencing a pet problem.