

MEMORANDUM

TO: Grace Merkes, Assembly President
Members, Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

FROM: Grace Merkes, Assembly President

DATE: December 20, 2007

SUBJECT: Ordinance 2008-01, enacting Chapter 8.10 of the Kenai Peninsula Borough Code providing for the impoundment and disposition of vicious dogs

I am introducing the attached ordinance in response to complaints received from constituents who have either been bitten or know people who have been bitten by dogs while out walking. My intention is to authorize the mayor to issue a request for proposals for a public or private entity to pick up dogs that have allegedly bitten someone in response to a call from a physician or a state trooper. The intention is that the contractor would house and feed the dog, send notice to the owner that the dog has been determined to be vicious, and provide an opportunity for the owner to appeal that determination. The appeal would be to the borough mayor and then to court. Once the appeals have been completed, if the dog is still considered vicious within the meaning of this proposed ordinance, then the dog would be euthanized.

Proposals could be submitted by several parties working jointly or by one party, but the intent is that they would provide coverage for the area of the borough outside of the cities. The portion of the ordinance authorizing the issuance of the request for proposals would become effective immediately, and the remaining sections would become effective 30 days after assembly approval of any contracts proposed for the enforcement of this ordinance. My intent is to only address vicious dogs that have bitten people and not to establish a full-blown dog control program. This would only apply to the areas of the borough outside of the cities.

Thank you for your consideration.