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## Dangerous pets law takes hold Sept. 15

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Pet owners in Farmington Hills are now officially on notice that if their animal is aggressive or attacks, there are consequences.

The Farmington Hills dangerous animals ordinance was adopted Monday by the City Council, following numerous reports of attacks in the city.

Councilman Randy Bruce brought the issue to the council last year, after news reports told of a deadly attack by a pack of dogs on two people in Livingston County, one of whom was a retired bus driver for Farmington Public Schools.

"Since that time, a number of people have testified (about their own experiences with aggressive dogs)," said Bruce. "It took me and others by surprise, the number of attacks. This is a well-constructed ordinance that is already being looked at by other cities."

The ordinance creates an animal review board, which will review reports of attacks and determine if the animal, by definition in the ordinance, is "potentially dangerous" or "dangerous." Owners, who may appeal the classification, will be required to register their animals, properly enclose the animal, post clear signage on their property and their pet must successfully complete obedience classes. Owners of dangerous animals must also carry at least \$1.5 million in personal liability insurance and are required to report to the city if the animal has escaped, attacked, changed ownership, residence or has died.

It does not specify breed or animal.

"This focuses not on the breed, but on the behavior of the animal and the owner," said Councilman Ken Massey. "This really stands out as a good city ordinance that addresses the issue."

The ordinance will be effective Monday, Sept. 15. To review the language, visit the City Clerk's office at City Hall or call (248) 871-2410 to request a copy to be e-mailed. The ordinance will be added to the city's Web site, [www.fhgov.com](http://www.fhgov.com), after Sept. 15.

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