From: Gwen Jones
To: David Strohmaier; Maggie Bornstein; Josh Slotnick; Grp. City Council and City Web Site; Juanita Vero
Subject: Re: Dog safety in Missoula
Date: Sunday, March 27, 2022 12:08:54 PM

Hi Maggie - I am so sorry to hear about your incident...I too recall just bypassing some houses where a dog was in the fence, barking...but to have no fence or warning as in your situation, is scary.

Animal Control is a County/City endeavor, but I believe the County Health Dept administers it, so Dave's initiative to contact both the Sheriff and Animal Control does cover the bases. I do know that Animal Control had staffing shortages for the last year or so, like everyone else...but I believe they are now back up to full numbers, which should help in the future.

Thanks for contacting us, it is good to have on our radar. Hope you are healing up well. -Gwen

Gwen Jones
Ward 3 City Councilwoman
606 Woodford St., Missoula, MT 59801
406 549-3295

Note: All emails to and from this address are in the public domain.

From: David Strohmaier <dstrohmaier@missoulacounty.us>
Sent: Sunday, March 27, 2022 9:27 AM
To: Maggie Bornstein <maggiebornstein@gmail.com>; Josh Slotnick <jslotnick@missoulacounty.us>; Grp. City Council and City Web Site <Council@ci.missoula.mt.us>; Juanita Vero <jvero@missoulacounty.us>
Subject: Re: Dog safety in Missoula

Thanks for reaching out, Maggie. What an awful experience. I'll touch bases with both the Sheriff's Office and Animal Control. Having been nipped and snarled at by dogs while knocking doors myself (in prepandemic days without a mask!), I can assure you that masks are not the main culprit when it comes to aggressive dogs.

Best,

Dave

David Strohmaier
Missoula County Commissioner
406.529.5580

From: Maggie Bornstein <maggiebornstein@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 27, 2022 9:14:20 AM
To: Josh Slotnick <jslotnick@missoulacounty.us>; council@ci.missoula.mt.us <council@ci.missoula.mt.us>; David Strohmaier <dstrohmaier@missoulacounty.us>; Juanita Vero

<jvero@missoulacounty.us>
Subject: Dog safety in Missoula

Hello Council & County Commissioners

I am reaching out because at the end of February, I was attacked by a stranger's pit bull whilst knocking doors off of Mullan road. There was no fenced front yard — The dog simply attacked me when someone opened the door.

I had to go to the hospital because I was bitten badly on my leg. The dog also bit through a winter jacket & sweater to slightly puncture my arm twice and grazed my face when it ripped off my face mask. While waiting for a ride from my boyfriend, the owner shared it had previous history of aggression.

In the hospital, a sheriff told me it probably attacked me because I was wearing a face mask. Both the dog training staff at Western Montana Humane Society & an officer for Animal Control told me that they had never heard such a reason. It was a clear effort to insert his personal/political feelings in the midst of a physically painful & traumatic event. It was inappropriate.

Animal Control called a few times to tell me it did not have rabies and to check-in. Repeatedly, I asked them to take action to prevent this from happening again and they said they could not. No citation was issued and no training was mandated. It is only a matter of time until this dog attacks a child or senior who cannot withstand it.

Last week, I had a panic attack in the parking lot of Blue Mountain. I had to go home — But I understand, off leash dogs are allowed there. However, when biking home from work on a leash required trail on Wednesday, one of a man's two large, off-leash dogs began approaching me. I asked him to please grab his dog as I was recently attacked. He refused and told me it wouldn't touch me. It did and I had a panic attack. He yelled at me, telling me "I didn't need to freak out." All I wanted was for him to follow the law.

I love this community but irresponsible and inconsiderate dog ownership is out of control. Every time I share what happened, people suggest that Animal Control can do something. Like clockwork, I see people's horror to find out we live in a place where dogs can physically harm people with no consequences. It doesn't have to be that way and I am asking for your help in making that possible.

Thank you all so much for listening. I look forward to seeing changes around dog safety in Missoula.

With gratitude,

Maggie Bornstein
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