

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-09-15-002

**AN ORDINANCE GOVERNING VICIOUS DOGS
WITHIN THE VILLAGE OF WAYNE LAKES, DARKE COUNTY, OHIO**

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the Village of Wayne Lakes to have a uniform policy regarding vicious dogs;

WHEREAS, to protect public safety by establishing clear definitions and requirements for dogs designated as "vicious," aligning with Ohio Revised Code and reflecting local oversight.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the council of the Village of Wayne Lakes, a majority of the members elected or appointed thereto concurring:

Section 1. Definitions

- **Vicious Dog:** Any dog that, without provocation, has killed or caused serious injury to a person.
- **Owner:** Any person who owns, harbors, or keeps a dog.
- **Serious Injury:** Injury including but not limited to bleeding as a result of a bite, broken bones, internal bleeding, or injury requiring hospitalization.
- **Without Provocation:** As defined under Ohio law—no teasing, tormenting, or unlawful intrusion.

Section 2. Designation Procedure

1. If a dog is suspected of being vicious, the Village may seize and impound the animal pending a hearing.
2. Within 10 days, the municipal court shall hold a hearing to determine the dog's status.
3. The Village bears the burden of proving viciousness by clear and convincing evidence
4. If designated vicious, the court will impose restrictions per the ordinance and state law.

Section 3. Requirements for Owners of Vicious Dogs

If a dog is designated vicious, the owner must:

a) **Secure Confinement on Premises**

- Keep the dog indoors or in a locked, secured pen or kennel with a top—or with sides at least six feet high if no top is used.

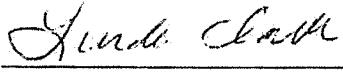
b) **Restraint Off Premises**

- When off the owner's property, the dog must be muzzled, on a short leash or tether, and under the control of a responsible person.

Section 8. Interplay with State Law

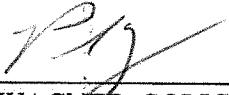
This ordinance supplements, and does not replace, Ohio Revised Code Chapter 955. Where state law imposes stricter requirements—such as mandatory destruction if the dog kills a person (fourth-degree felony) or first-degree misdemeanor if serious injury occurs—the state requirements shall apply.

PASSED, this 7 day of October, 2025.



LINDA CLARK, MAYOR

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



PAUL WAGNER, SOLICITOR