

29. *Temporary Certificate of Registration* means a current, valid Temporary Certificate of Registration for the possession of a classified dog issued pursuant to this Ordinance.

30. *Vicious dog* means a dog that inflicts serious injury on a person or causes serious injury to a person resulting from reasonable attempts to escape from the dog's attack.

V. DESIGNATION OF DOG CONTROL OFFICER; CONSOLIDATION OF SERVICES

- a. *Designation of Dog Control Officers.* The Board of Commissioners hereby designates each of the County's Animal Services Officers, the Director of Animal Services, and the Assistant Director of Animal Services, as Dog Control Officers to aid in the administration and enforcement of the provisions of this Ordinance.
- b. *Consolidation of Services.* The County may enter into an agreement with any municipality located within the County for the consolidation of responsible dog ownership services under this Ordinance.

VI. RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERSHIP

a. Investigations by Dog Control Officer

1. Upon receiving a report of a dog that may be a dangerous dog or vicious dog in the jurisdiction of the County, the Dog Control Officer shall make such investigations as necessary for the Dog Control Officer to determine whether to classify the dog as a dangerous dog or a vicious dog.
2. No dog shall be classified as a dangerous dog or vicious dog for actions that occur while the dog is being used by a law enforcement or military officer to carry out the law enforcement or military officer's official duties.
3. No dog shall be classified as a dangerous dog or a vicious dog if the person injured by such dog was, at the time, committing a trespass under OCGA § 16-7-21, physically or mentally abusing the dog, or committing or attempting to commit an offense under OCGA Title 16 Chapter 5.

b. Impoundment

1. A Dog Control Officer shall immediately seize and impound a dog if the officer believes the dog poses a threat to public safety.
2. A Dog Control Officer may seize and impound any dog upon issuance of a Notice of Classification pursuant to subsection (c) of this section.
3. An impounded dog whose owner has requested a hearing before the Probate Court may be released to the owner if the owner obtains a Temporary Certificate of Registration issued pursuant to this Ordinance.