

"Dogs on the Run"

Do County and City Animal Control Codes, Policies, and Procedures Adequately Protect Our Residents?

SUMMARY

Imagine yourself spending the day at a local park with your children. Out of nowhere, a dog rushes your young child and bites them on the face. Your child sustains serious injuries. Later, at a hearing, you learn this dog had two previous attacks on record. The dog is declared a *vicious dog* and euthanized. You wonder if the attack upon your child could have been prevented.

Imagine you are walking your leashed dogs along a public street when two dogs charge your dogs. In the scuffle, you are bitten on your hands and legs; and one of your dogs is so severely injured it requires emergency surgery. A year later, to the best of your knowledge, the case was closed without any investigation, quarantine, proof of rabies vaccination, or a *Potentially Dangerous Dog* hearing for the dogs involved in the attack.

Imagine you are a junior high aged child and you take your small dog into your front yard to relieve itself. Suddenly an unleashed dog attacks and maims your small dog in front of your eyes, while the attacking dog's owner stands there watching. Your dog is so severely injured it has to be euthanized. You file a complaint; the case is investigated; a *Potentially Dangerous Dog* hearing is held, and conditions are applied to the attacking dog. However, the dog is still seen around town off-leash and without the mandated muzzle.

Imagine you are sitting in your own home and a loose dog leaps through your screened window, chases your cat that had been sitting in the window, and savagely injures you both as you try to intervene. Your cat is so gravely injured it must be euthanized. Later you find out the dog has been known to attack small pets. You filed a complaint, and the animal was seized, but a year later you still do not know the outcome of the investigation.

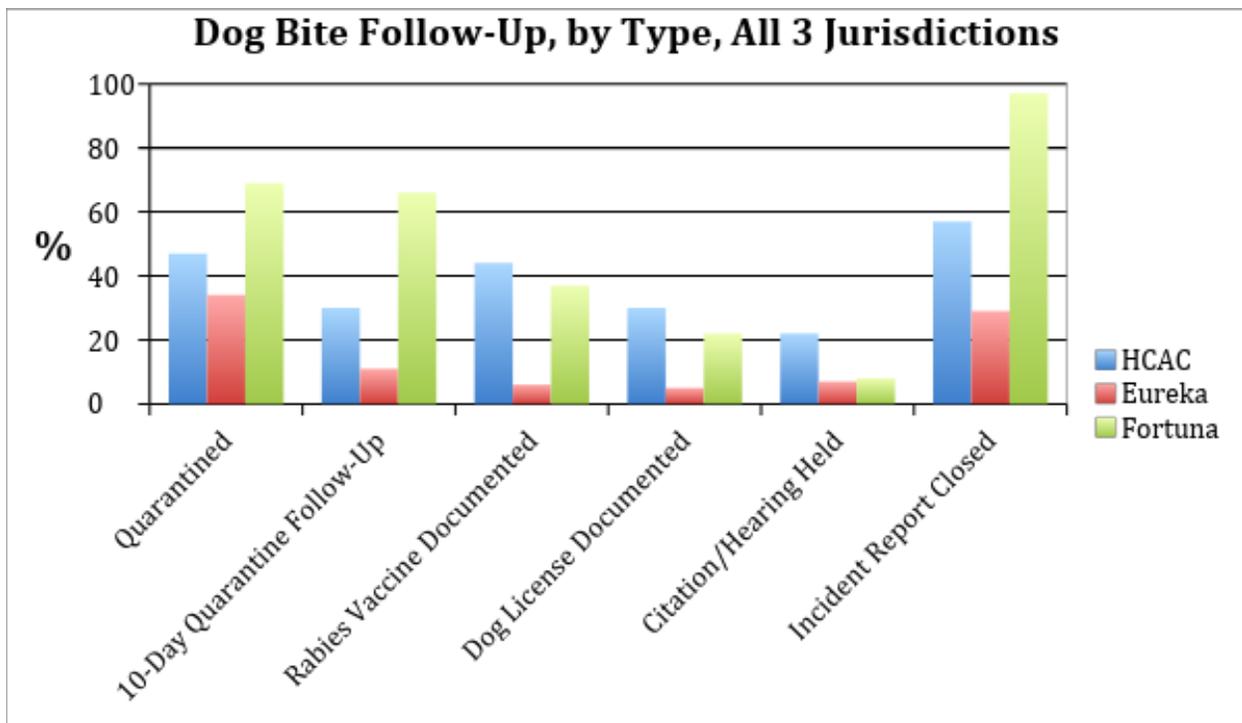
Imagine you are a postal employee that has been attacked by the same dog three different times. Each time you approach, you wonder if this is going to be the fourth time. You wonder why nothing has been done to declare this dog *potentially dangerous* or *vicious*.

Imagine sitting on your own front porch, with your sleeping 18 year old cat beside you, when a pair of marauding dogs attacks and kills your cat. In the next few days, additional cats in your neighborhood are attacked by the same dogs. Eventually the dogs are caught, a hearing is held, and the dogs are declared *potentially dangerous*. You learn the dogs cannot be declared *vicious* because the language in current codes is outdated.

All of the above stories, plus many more, happened here in Humboldt County in the past two years. Uncontrolled dogs killed and maimed pets, and injured people, causing some injuries so severe they required surgery.

The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury (HCCGJ) investigated the conditions under which Humboldt County Animal Control, the City of Eureka Animal Control, and the City of Fortuna Animal Control function. We found evidence that:

- These agencies are understaffed for the job they must do.
- The City of Eureka Animal Control is severely understaffed, with only one Animal Control Officer.
- Current animal codes are outdated and insufficient to handle present day conditions.
- Persistent problems were found in varying degrees across all three jurisdictions:
- Inconsistent adherence to policies and procedures
- Limited enforcement of leash laws, including failure to cite
- Repeat attacks by the same dog(s)
- Inconsistent quarantine practices
- Inconsistent verification of proof of rabies vaccination
- Limited documentation of dog bite information provided to the Humboldt County Public Health Department
- Limited communication among jurisdictions regarding dogs with a bite history
- Incomplete documentation

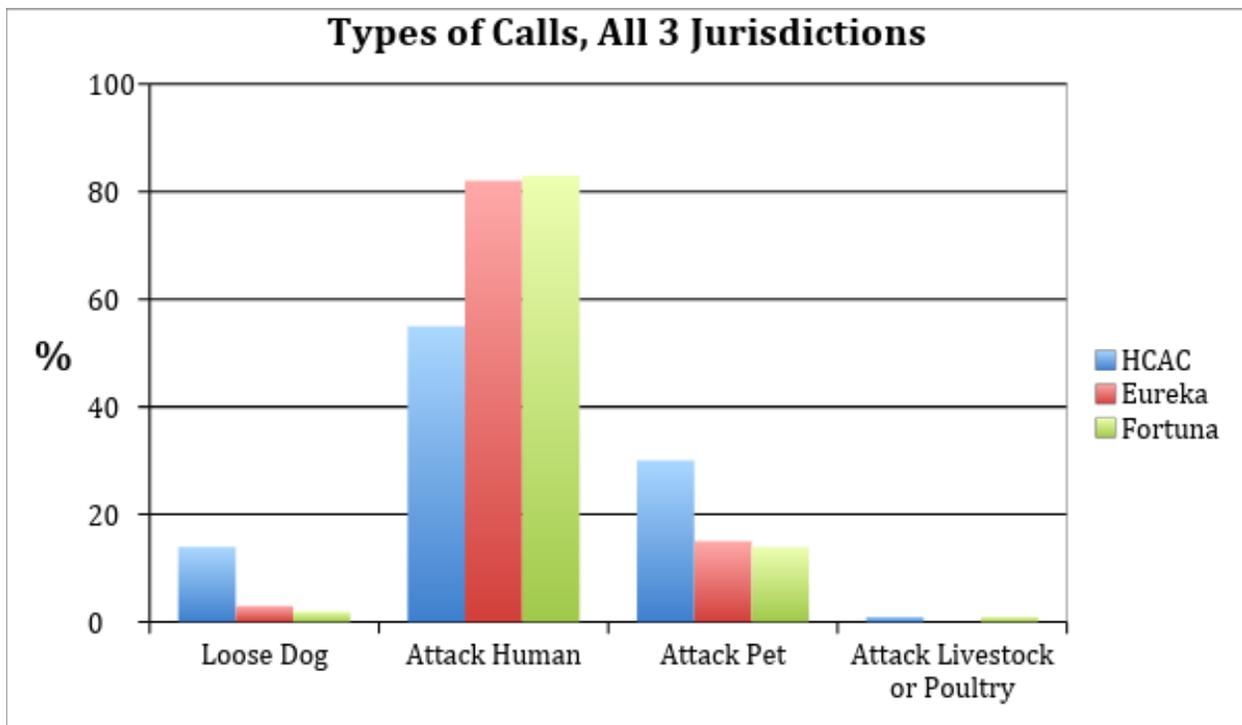


BACKGROUND

The past two years have seen an alarming rise in the numbers of unprovoked dog attacks nationwide, statewide, and countywide. Several local incidents were highly publicized on local social media and news media.

Dog Bite Statistics:

- Each day, about 1,000 United States citizens require emergency care treatment for dog bites.
- Approximately 71% of dog bites occur to the extremities such as the arms, legs, hands, and feet.
- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), about 4.5 million Americans are bitten by dogs each year, and half of these are children.
- The U.S. Postal Service tracks dog bites against carriers and typically reports around 3,000 incidents annually.
- In California, emergency department visits for treatment of dog bites increased by 8% over just a five-year period.
- Calls to animal control in Humboldt County exceeded 3,000 during the past two years.



Bites from dogs are relatively common, making them an important public health and safety problem. Dog bites can lead to disfigurement, disability, and infectious complications, including

the fatal rabies, particularly if left untreated or treatment is delayed. They are a painful and traumatic experience. Hands are the most common injury for victims of animal bites and can lead to disability. Facial injuries, while less common, can lead to disfigurement and complications.

In addition to bites sustained by humans, unprovoked attacks from unleashed dogs upon personal pets may result in severe injuries or even death. In many cases, pet owners are forced to euthanize the injured pet because of the significant cost of veterinary treatment needed to save the animal's life. The emotional trauma experienced by pet owners forced to make these choices can be devastating. The distress caused by dog attacks can be compounded by the circumstances. Attacks on pets often occur while the pet victim is on their owner's property, and there are many instances where both pet and pet owner were injured when a pet was snatched from the owner by a vicious dog. In these situations, pet owners report the anxiety can be debilitating.

The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury (HCCGJ) received citizen complaints regarding loose dogs and lax animal code enforcement. The HCCGJ decided to investigate current county and municipal animal codes, animal control policies and procedures for handling dog attacks, enforcement of dog licensing, and consistency across jurisdictions.

Rabies Control

The chief disease spread by animal bites is rabies. There have been only three human beings known to have survived rabies, which is essentially fatal if not treated. California is endemic for rabies, which means it is present in wildlife in all parts of the state. Humboldt County, along with the 57 other California counties, has been declared a rabies area. This means the existence of rabies within the county has been determined to constitute a public health hazard by the State of California Department of Public Health (CDPH).

Humboldt County has had numerous incidents involving rabid animals. Already, in 2018, there has been possible human exposure to rabies due to a bite. In 2017, Humboldt County had a dog test positive for rabies. In 2016, 50 animals in Humboldt County were tested for rabies. Eight were positive, including four foxes, two bats, one cat and one dog. In 2015, only one animal tested positive in Humboldt County. In 2013 and 2014 there were no positive tests for rabies. Rabies in wildlife has been reported to be cyclical in nature, so prevention through vaccination is key.

In counties declared by the CDPH to be rabies areas, the Local Health Officer (LHO) must be notified of any person who is bitten by an animal of a species subject to rabies, whether or not the animal is suspected of having rabies. During the most recent CDPH surveillance period 3% of animals diagnosed as rabid were dogs. Rabies in dogs can largely be prevented by regular vaccinations and are required for dog licensure in cities and counties.

The Role of Animal Control

Animal control can be performed by both sworn and non-sworn enforcement officers. Most animal control departments are under the umbrella of a law enforcement entity such as city police department or county agency. They are charged with keeping the public safe, preventing animal abuse, and assisting in the prevention of disease. Each jurisdiction establishes a set of rules, called codes, to regulate animals within its purview. Typically, animal control departments are expected to handle dog licensing, enforce leash laws, investigate all calls for service

involving animals, capture strays or owned pets causing a nuisance, issue citations, and conduct investigations of animal bites.

Each jurisdiction operates under a set of policies and procedures for handling dog issues.

These regulations describe the processes for:

- Responding to calls
- Investigating complaints
- Taking reports
- Following up on reports
- Managing quarantine
- Holding *Nuisance, Potentially Dangerous, or Vicious* dog hearings
- Aiding victims
- Reporting rabies

The Role of Public Health

As mentioned above, the county LHO is charged with monitoring all potential cases of rabies exposure. California statutes dictate all animal bites must be reported to the local public health department. Consequently, doctors, hospital emergency departments, veterinarians, and animal control officers are required to notify the county LHO of all animal bites to humans.

The Division of Environmental Health of the Humboldt County Public Health Department is charged with compiling all dog bite data. Its laboratory is responsible for conducting tests on animals potentially exposed to rabies, yet receives no funding for any rabies investigation. The LHO sets the quarantine guidelines for the county based on state law. In Humboldt County vaccinated animals may be quarantined at home if they have a responsible owner with a secure perimeter so no other animal or person can be exposed. Unvaccinated animals must be quarantined at a shelter or veterinary facility. The length of time for quarantine varies depending on the animal's vaccination history.

Public Health nursing staff assist bite victims by providing medical recommendations, including the need for rabies shots. They advise victims about wound care as well.

Dog owners, animal control, and public health all play a part to provide a safe environment for both animals and humans. Whether animal-on-animal or animal-on-human, prevention of dog bites is an important public safety issue.

METHODOLOGY

The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury:

- Interviewed law enforcement officers and animal control officers across multiple jurisdictions within Humboldt County
- Interviewed Humboldt County Public Health Department employees
- Reviewed California, Humboldt County, Eureka, Fortuna, Arcata, Rio Dell, and Ferndale animal codes
- Reviewed the policies and procedures for Humboldt County Animal Control, and animal control for the cities of Eureka, Fortuna, Arcata, Rio Dell, and Ferndale
- Reviewed 2016 and 2017 dog attack reports from multiple Humboldt County and city jurisdictions and conducted statistical analyses of the information
- Interviewed victims of dog attacks and bites
- Reviewed published dog bite and rabies statistics
- Reviewed animal control practices among other California counties

DISCUSSION

Jurisdictions

Multiple jurisdictions handle dog licensing, enforce leash laws, and respond to calls regarding dog attacks on humans, pets, and livestock. The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury (HCCGJ) interviewed animal control officers from three different jurisdictions. Their responses provided the HCCGJ a clear picture of their duties and responsibilities.

We also interviewed victims of dog attacks, both animal-on-animal and animal-on-human. The victims' responses provided the HCCGJ with a public perception of animal control practices, policies, procedures, and enforcement.

The HCCGJ reviewed hundreds of reports compiled by local animal control officers. These documents provided the HCCGJ with information regarding similarities and differences among animal control by jurisdiction, consistency following policies and procedures, types of service calls, and estimated workload.

Humboldt County Animal Control

The largest animal control unit is Humboldt County Animal Control (HCAC) which is under the direction of the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office (HCSO). There are four Animal Control Officers (ACOs) employed to handle animal calls. These same ACOs are responsible for operations of the Humboldt County Animal Shelter on the outskirts of McKinleyville as well. They cover calls from all areas of the county with the exception of those cities or tribes with their own animal control programs. These ACOs take complaint calls for loose animals, including livestock and poultry. They handle bite reports, licensing, nuisance animals, investigations of animal abuse, and hold hearings for *potentially dangerous* and *vicious* dogs.

City of Eureka Animal Control

Eureka Animal Control is handled by a single ACO under the jurisdiction of the Eureka Police Department (EPD). There is no backup when the ACO is off-duty and upon return to duty, there is a large list of calls to investigate. The lone ACO is responsible for enforcement of licensing, leash laws, loose dogs, handling nuisance dog complaints, investigating animal abuse, processing bite reports, and holding hearings within Eureka city limits.

City of Fortuna Animal Control

Fortuna employs one ACO plus utilizes the assistance of two Community Service Officers (CSOs) under the jurisdiction of the Fortuna Police Department (FPD). Their responsibilities fall only within the city limits. FPD has holding facilities for a few animals. It has an agreement with a non-profit rescue for stray animals. It also utilizes the Humboldt County Animal Shelter for quarantine.

Other Municipalities

The HCCGJ reviewed animal codes of other jurisdictions within the county, most of which had contracted with secondary agencies to handle their animal control issues. Some of the secondary agencies were the three agencies discussed above, plus at least one private non-profit organization.

State Statutes and Local Codes

The State of California has statutes for animals which address licensure, dangerous and vicious animals, livestock, animal abuse, service dogs, diseases, and vaccinations. Cities and counties, under police powers laws, may write and enforce animal codes which are more strict than the state laws if they so choose. The HCCGJ obtained copies of local animal codes and found the last revision of the county codes to have been in 2004. City codes were also not current. There was consistency across these codes among agencies but differences as well, especially in the area of handling dog attacks on people and pets/livestock. Some codes dated back to 1959 and many had not been revised since the 1990s.

During our interviews there was unanimous agreement among animal control officers, public health employees, and victims of animal attacks that changes are needed in order to bring the codes up to date.

Regulating and Licensing Dogs

All three jurisdictions investigated have codes to (1) regulate and (2) license dogs:

- To prevent dogs running at large
- To require registration and licensure of dogs for identification purposes
- To provide for enforcement
- To authorize seizure, impoundment, and disposition of loose dogs (i.e. return to owner, adoption, rescue, or euthanization)
- To define violations
- To declare dog owner responsibilities

Compulsory Rabies Vaccination

In order to protect the public from being bitten by dogs who do or might carry the rabies virus, all three jurisdictions investigated have established codes for rabies vaccination:

- To define vaccination
- To require proof of vaccination
- To prohibit ownership of any dog not vaccinated by a duly licensed veterinarian
- To establish failure to comply as a misdemeanor with fine and/or imprisonment as a consequence
- To provide for the impoundment and isolation of any dog having bitten a human being

Enforcement

Any animal control officer under county or city jurisdiction has the authority to issue citations. These may be issued for violation of animal codes and to appear in court for violation of animal control laws.

Public Nuisance, Potentially Dangerous, and Vicious Dogs

For the health, safety, peace, and quiet of county and city residents current codes have been established to:

- Regulate and control *nuisance, potentially dangerous, and vicious* dogs which present a threat to the welfare of residents
- Hold accountable owners of dogs that are not properly confined and under the control of their owners at all times
- Define the parameters under which dogs may be declared a *nuisance, potentially dangerous, or vicious*
- Define *severe injury, enclosure, and property*
- Establish procedures for declaring dogs a *nuisance, potentially dangerous, or vicious*
- Establish parameters for hearings and appeals
- Establish procedures for disposition of *potentially dangerous and vicious* dogs

Compliance with Codes, Policies, and Procedures

The HCCGJ reviewed over 300 incident reports inclusive of all three jurisdictions (i.e. Humboldt County, Eureka, Fortuna). We analyzed the reports from each jurisdiction for compliance with:

- Enforcement of leash laws
- Documentation of repeat attacks by the same dog
- Enforcement of quarantine
- Verification of rabies vaccination

- Reporting bites to the county LHO
- Communication among jurisdictions
- Required information contained in each report

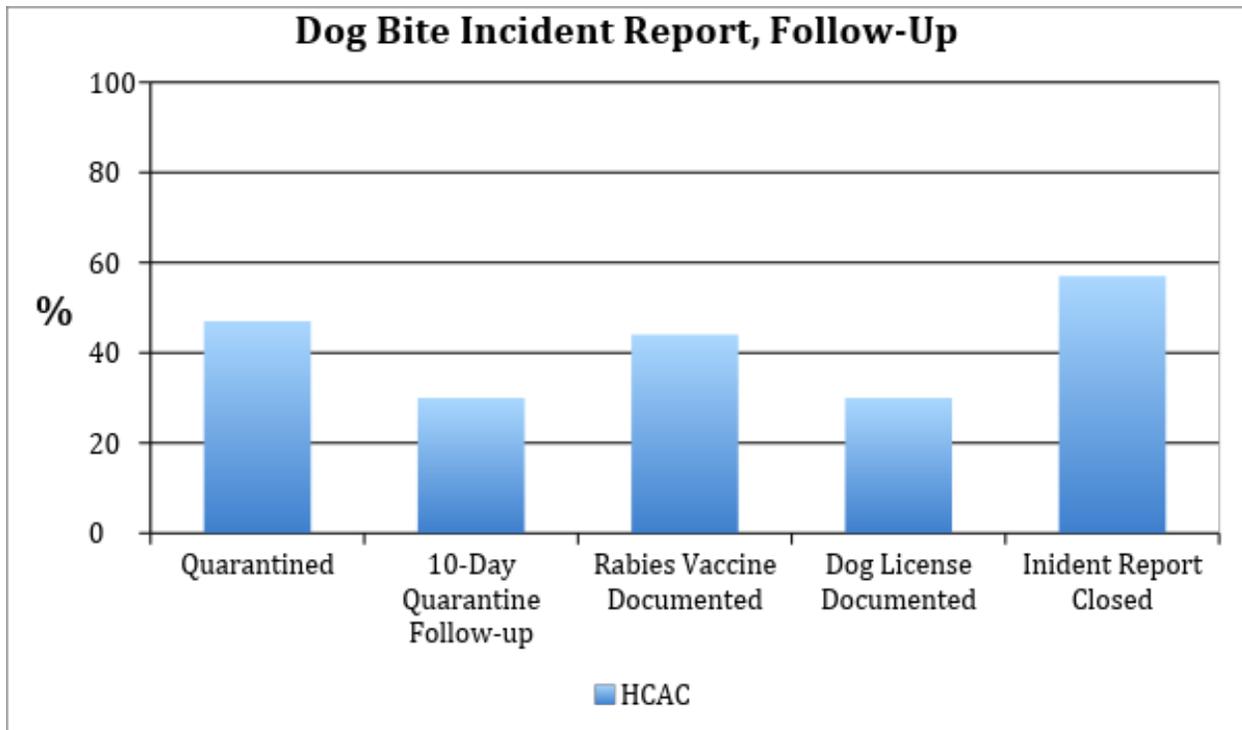
Humboldt County Animal Control

Humboldt County Animal Control (HCAC) covers the largest area in terms of square mileage and employs the most ACOs. It also runs the Humboldt County Animal Shelter (HCAS). Both were understaffed during the investigation. The county utilizes outside hearing officers whenever a hearing is held.

HCAC travels to many remote areas and must deal with victims and dog owners who do not know/follow the county codes. Some of those involved take matters into their own hands, complicating the handling of dog bite incidents. It was found to be fairly common for rural victims to shoot dogs involved in attacks.

The incident reports prepared by HCAC were inconsistently completed with required documentation. One dog had a record of seven attacks with no documented repercussions. Several other dog attack reports had no documentation an ACO ever viewed the dog during quarantine or upon release from quarantine. Although we did find some areas that need improvement, overall, HCAC was the most effective of the three jurisdictions investigated in its efforts to follow up on and identify dogs as a *nuisance, potentially dangerous* or *vicious*.

Some ACOs documented follow-up better than others. The overall performance of HCAC was skewed due to the performance of one ACO who consistently failed to document follow-up for all required procedures, although mentioned in the report narrative. Without documentation, the HCCGJ was unable to verify all procedures were followed. The chart below shows the frequency with which required follow-up was documented.

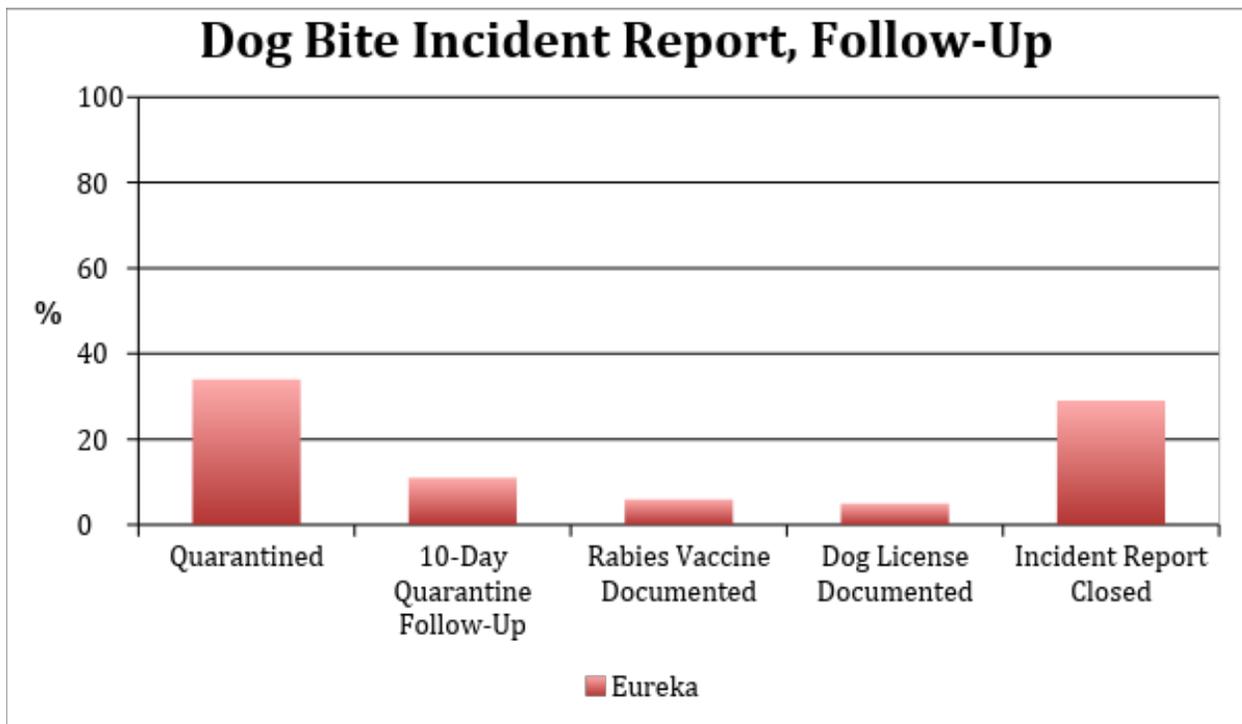


City of Eureka Animal Control

Eureka Animal Control handles calls for the entire incorporated area of over 28,000 residents. All duties are handled by a single ACO who has been in the position for approximately two years. The HCCGJ found evidence that as the ACO became more familiar with the job, performance improved. Nevertheless, the job demands far exceed the capabilities of a single ACO, who received over 2,000 calls for service since hired. In addition to handling service calls, the ACO also acts as the hearing officer for *nuisance, potentially dangerous, and vicious* dog hearings.

Some of the City of Eureka codes were very outdated and referred to medical practices that are no longer commonly in use, hampering enforcement. Such practices included, but were not limited to, counting the number of stitches received or the definition of a *severe injury*.

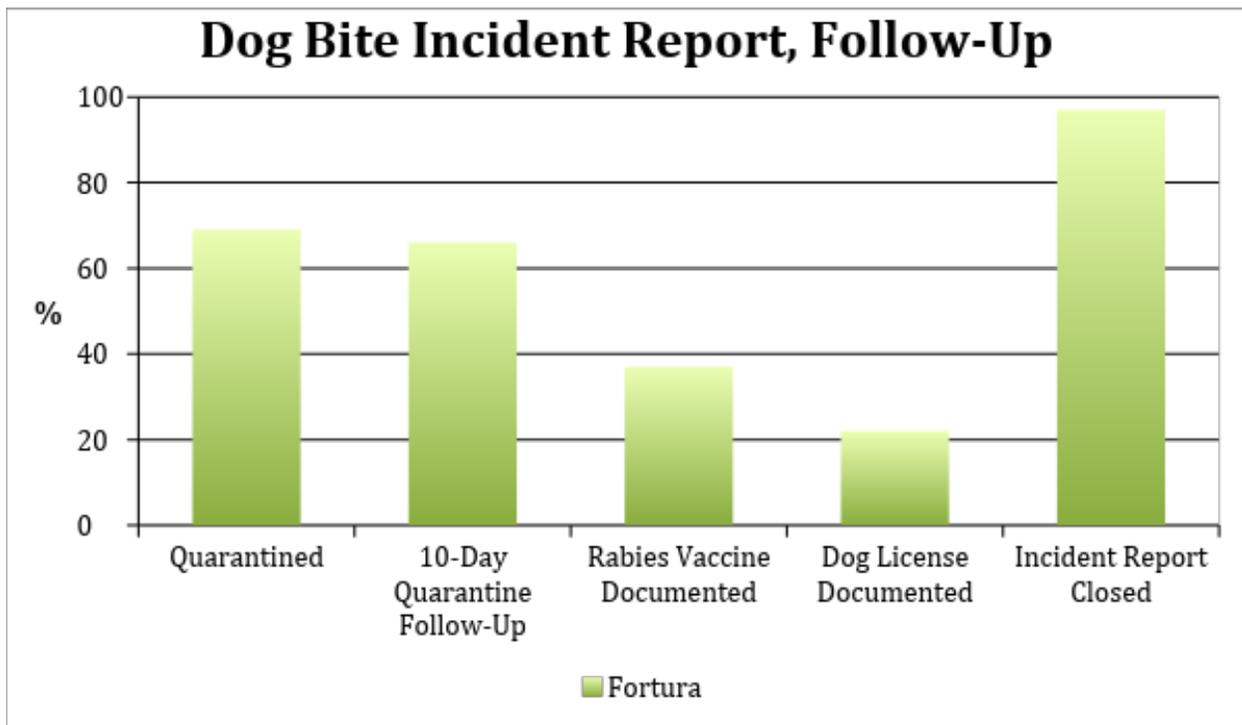
The incident reports prepared by the City of Eureka ACO were not consistently completed, although they showed improvement over time. Follow-up of bite incidents post quarantine and documentation of rabies vaccination or licensure were deficient. There were several dogs involved in more than one biting incident with no apparent repercussions. The ACO rarely responded to calls involving unleashed dogs or issued *Nuisance* citations. The HCCGJ received multiple complaints that there was no enforcement of city leash laws. The chart below shows the frequency with which required follow-up was documented.



City of Fortuna Animal Control

Fortuna Animal Control handles calls for the incorporated area, covering over 15,000 residents. Animal control duties are handled by an ACO plus two Community Service Officers (CSO). A small impoundment facility is also under the operational control of the ACO. There were no records indicating any hearings were held. It was reported Fortuna Animal Control sometimes utilizes the county animal shelter for quarantine services and holding loose dogs.

The incident reports prepared by the ACO and CSOs were not as complete as they should be, with about 40% of them lacking some type of required information. Most notable were lack of documentation for follow-up on quarantines and proof of rabies. The HCCGJ found documented evidence the ACO and CSOs were relying upon phone call verifications and not visiting quarantined animals in person. In one case, an animal was verified to have escaped from home quarantine, but the dog was not transferred to a more secure facility such as the county shelter or a veterinary clinic. Another case was closed without any documentation of quarantine, 10-day quarantine check, proof of rabies vaccination or license, or victim contact after the initial report. Multiple reports had no documentation for proof of rabies vaccination or proof of license. However, in spite of these deficiencies, 97% of the cases were closed. The chart below shows the frequency with which required follow-up was documented.



Public Health Reporting

All three jurisdictions were seriously deficient in meeting the requirement imposed by the State of California to report all animal bites to the county LHO, who forwards those numbers to the California Department of Health. The HCCGJ was unable to access private health information to verify reporting by local health providers.

Conclusion

The HCCGJ found local residents have become increasingly affected by dog attacks over the past two years. They have reported being afraid to walk their leashed dogs in public places. Some feel it is not safe for children to ride bicycles and scooters or play in their own yards. One interviewee stated he felt no one really cares about the victims of dog attacks.

Contrary to some public comments on news blogs, the HCCGJ found the majority of dog attacks come from dogs owned by housed people, not the homeless. The HCCGJ also learned it is not uncommon for a single dog to have been involved in multiple incidents across jurisdictions

without consequence. Only about 45% of the dogs involved in the incident reports reviewed by the HCCGJ were vaccinated for rabies and even fewer were licensed. Many were not spayed or neutered.

In a county where rabies is endemic, free-roaming and unvaccinated dogs put all county residents at risk of exposure to the fatal disease. Animal control departments are understaffed for the job that needs to be done, putting residents at further risk. Steps need to be taken to minimize our risk. The HCCGJ hopes the recommendations developed from this report are taken seriously and acted upon in consideration of public safety.

FINDINGS

- F1. There is little communication across animal control jurisdictions regarding bite histories for dogs, which puts the public at increased risk for dog attacks upon people and pets.
- F2. Humboldt County animal codes need to be updated to reflect current medical practices to prevent owners of *potentially dangerous* and *vicious* dogs from avoiding serious consequences resulting from attacks. This puts the public at increased risk for attacks by dogs with known bite histories.
- F3. The City of Eureka animal codes need to be updated to reflect current medical practices to prevent owners of *potentially dangerous* and *vicious* dogs from avoiding serious consequences resulting from attacks. This puts the public at increased risk for attacks by dogs with known bite histories.
- F4. The City of Fortuna animal codes need to be updated to reflect current medical practices to prevent owners of *potentially dangerous* and *vicious* dogs from avoiding serious consequences resulting from attacks. This puts the public at increased risk for attacks by dogs with known bite histories.
- F5. The ability of a single Animal Control Officer to cover the animal control needs of the City of Eureka is severely compromised by the sheer number of calls, placing citizens at serious risk of dog attacks upon people and pets.
- F6. Due to inconsistent follow-through by Humboldt County Animal Control, the City of Eureka Animal Control, and the City of Fortuna Animal Control to ensure proper quarantine of dogs which have bitten people and pets, and verification of rabies vaccinations for them, Humboldt County residents are at risk of contracting rabies.
- F7. Lack of cross-reporting dog bites to the Humboldt County Public Health Department Local Health Officer by county and city animal control agencies places the county citizens at risk of a rabies outbreak.
- F8. The Division of Environmental Health is tasked with handling all cases of possible rabies exposure, but receives no funds to carry out those duties, placing an undue burden on already busy employees and possibly hampering their effectiveness in a rabies outbreak.
- F9. Residents of Humboldt County are unaware if a *potentially dangerous* dog or *vicious* dog resides within their neighborhood, placing them or their pets at risk of being attacked or bitten.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- R1. The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends Humboldt County, the City of Eureka, and the City of Fortuna form a collaborative task force to review and update their Animal Codes, and present them for consideration to their governing bodies by December 31, 2018. (F2, F3, F4)
- R2. The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends Humboldt County, the City of Eureka, and the City of Fortuna approve the amended Animal Codes recommended by the collaborative task force in Recommendation 1 by March 31, 2019. (F2, F3, F4)
- R3. The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office establish a database accessible by all Humboldt County law enforcement agencies which shall contain identification, location, and type of incident for all dog attacks within Humboldt County. This database should be established and operational by March 31, 2019. (F1)
- R4. The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends the City of Eureka hire a second Animal Control Officer by December 31, 2018. (F5)
- R5. The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office, the City of Eureka Police Department, and the City of Fortuna Police Department establish a checklist, similar to the one found in Appendix A, to be embedded within Animal Control Report forms. The checklist should function as a reminder to Animal Control Officers of all follow-up information needed for a complete report, and ensure no report is closed until all follow-up has been documented within the report. This checklist should be in use by December 31, 2018. (F6)
- R6. The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends Humboldt County Animal Control, the City of Eureka Animal Control, and the City of Fortuna Animal Control comply with the State of California Animal Code and provide monthly reports to the Public Health Department of all animal bites that occurred within their jurisdiction for said month. This reporting system should be use by December 31, 2018. (F7)
- R7. The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends the Humboldt County Public Health Department revise its budget for the Division of Environmental Health to cover costs associated with monitoring animal bites and responding to possible rabies cases. This revision should be complete by December 31, 2018. (F8)
- R8. The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends the Humboldt County Animal Shelter establish an information page on its website notifying the public of the location, description of the dog, and name of the owner of all dogs in the county identified as Potentially Dangerous or Vicious. This page should be accessible to the public by December 31, 2018. (F9)
- R9. The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends the Humboldt County Animal Shelter, the City of Eureka Animal Control, and the City of Fortuna Animal Control microchip at owner's expense for identification purposes all un-microchipped animals that pass through the Humboldt County Animal Shelter or have engaged in an unprovoked attack upon a person or pet. The microchip information shall be maintained within a

database accessible to all local law enforcement. This program should be in effect by December 31, 2018. (F1)

REQUIRED RESPONSES

Pursuant to Penal Code section 933.05, the Grand Jury requires responses as follows:

From the following individual:

- Humboldt County Sheriff (**R3, R5, R6, R8, R9**)

From the following governing bodies:

- Humboldt County Board of Supervisors (**R1, R2, R7**)
- Humboldt County Department of Public Health (**R7**)
- Eureka City Council (**R1, R2, R4, R5, R6, R9**)
- Fortuna City Council (**R1, R2, R5, R6, R9**)

Reports issued by the Grand Jury do not identify individuals interviewed. Penal Code section 929 requires that reports of the Grand Jury not contain the name of any person or facts leading to the identity of any person who provides information to the Grand Jury.
--

BIBLIOGRAPHY

[Animal Friends of the Valleys. Dangerous Dogs List. 3/24/2018.](#)

[California Department of Public Health: State of California Health and Human Services Agency. 1/31/2018.](#)

California Department of Public Health: Veterinary Public Health Section Infectious Diseases Branch, Division of Communicable Diseases Control, Center for Infectious Diseases. *Investigation, Management and Prevention of Animal Bites in California, 3rd Ed.* 2014.

[California Summary of Rabies. 10/16/2017.](#)

[City of Arcata Animal Municipal Code. 10/20/2017.](#)

[City of Ferndale Animal Control Codes. 3/18/2018.](#)

[City of Rio Dell Animal Control Codes. 10/17/2017.](#)

[Eureka, California Code of Ordinances. Chapter 91: Animal Codes. 10/16/2017.](#)

[Fortuna city Municipal Code. 10/16/2017.](#)

Eureka Times-Standard. *County Tests Positive for Rabies.* 2/7/2017.

Humboldt County Animal Control Codes. 10/17/2017.

<https://humboldt.gov.org/DocumentCenter/View/1255/Division-4---Plants-and-Animals>

KIEM. *Rabies Concerns in Humboldt County.* 1/29/2018.

Wear, Kimberly. *North Coast Journal: Humboldt Dog Tests Positive for Rabies.* 2/7/2018.

[West's Annotated California Codes. 11/10/2017.](#)

APPENDIX A

Sample Bite Report Procedures Checklist

- Make contact with all known parties.
- Check to see if animal is currently vaccinated for rabies.
- Animal must be kept under quarantine for 10 days.
- Animal cannot be euthanized.
- Officer to obtain a copy of the animal's rabies certificate, if available.
- Animal cannot be vaccinated for rabies until after the quarantine period.
- If the victim was bitten by an unvaccinated animal, they should be advised to follow up with their physician.
- A narrative should be done by initial officer prior to referral to animal control to avoid duplication of effort, if follow up is needed.
- Initial officer needs to inspect the location where the animal is to be quarantined to verify it is a secure location.
- Initial officer needs to determine if there is a previous bite history for the animal.
- Tell the owner they are not to have the animal out where it can come into contact with other animals or people during the 10 day quarantine.
- Animal control or other law enforcement officer must periodically check on quarantined animal.
- At the end of the quarantine, the animal must be checked on to see if it is displaying any obvious signs of illness.
- Owner must sign and date bite form at the end of the quarantine.
- Make contact with the victim.
- Attach copies of all documents to original report.