



REPORT FOR ACTION

Dangerous Dog Review Tribunal 2019 Annual Report

Date: February 25, 2020

To: Economic and Community Development Committee

From: Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards

Wards: All

SUMMARY

The City of Toronto has the authority to issue a Dangerous Dog Order under the Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 349, Animals. Dog owners who receive a Dangerous Dog Order, and do not agree, can appeal this designation to the Dangerous Dog Review Tribunal (the Tribunal).

The Tribunal is a new adjudicative board and local board of the City of Toronto under the authority of the *City of Toronto Act, 2006*. The Tribunal provides an independent review of Dangerous Dog Orders issued by Municipal Licensing and Standards (MLS) under Section 349-15.1 of the Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 349, Animals. The Tribunal has the authority to:

- a. confirm the determination of a Dangerous Dog Order; or
- b. rescind the determination of a Dangerous Dog Order and exempt the owner from all requirements of the Dangerous Dog Order.

Tribunal hearings are conducted in accordance with the *Statutory Powers Procedure Act, 1990* and the Tribunal's rules of procedure.

MLS issued 93 Dangerous Dog Orders in 2019. Of these, 17 Orders were appealed to the Tribunal.

In accordance with its governance structure, the Tribunal must submit an annual report on its work to the appropriate standing committee. Attached to this report is the Tribunal Chair's 2019 Annual Report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards recommends that:

1. The Economic and Community Development Committee receive the 2019 Annual Report from the Chair, Dangerous Dog Review Tribunal, in Attachment 1 for information.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards, confirms that there are no financial implications resulting from the recommendation in this report. Recommendations contained in Attachment 1 may have financial impacts that would need to be assessed by staff if directed by the Economic and Community Development Committee.

DECISION HISTORY

On July 23, 2018, City Council adopted Item LS27.1, Improved Dangerous Dog Review Tribunal, which established the Dangerous Dog Review Tribunal and its Governance Structure.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2018.LS27.1>

COMMENTS

In 2019, Municipal Licensing and Standards responded to 1,912 service requests related to dangerous acts by a dog, as detailed in Table 1. This resulted in the issuance of 93 Dangerous Dog Orders.

Table 1: Dangerous Act Service Requests (2019)

Dangerous Act Type	Service Requests
Animal to Animal (Bite)	269
Animal to Human (Bite)	915
Animal to Animal (Attack)	131
Animal to Human (Attack)	185
Menacing Behaviour	412
Total	1,912

If a Dangerous Dog Order is issued, the owner must adhere to the following conditions:

- Muzzle, leash, and maintain control of the dog at all times when off the premises of the owner;
- Ensure the dog is wearing a dangerous dog tag at all times;
- Prohibit the dog from entering into a designated leash-free area of a City park;
- Post a warning sign on the owner's property; and
- Obtain training for the dog.

Dog owners who receive a Dangerous Dog Order, and do not agree, can have their appeal considered by the Dangerous Dog Review Tribunal by submitting their written request and the applicable appeal fee (currently \$351.52, including tax) to MLS. The conditions of the Dangerous Dog Order remain in place while the appeal is under consideration.

Dangerous Dog Review Tribunal Overview

The Dangerous Dog Review Tribunal is an adjudicative board and local board of the City of Toronto under the authority of the *City of Toronto Act, 2006*. It is comprised of five citizens chosen by Toronto City Council for a four-year term. The Tribunal conducts itself in accordance with the *Statutory Powers Procedure Act, 1990* and its rules of procedure. Its members are bound by the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act, 1990*.

The Tribunal has the authority to:

- a. confirm the determination of a Dangerous Dog Order; or,
- b. rescind the determination of a Dangerous Dog Order and exempt the owner from compliance with Section 349-15.1 of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 349, Animals.

The Tribunal receives administrative support from the City Clerk's Office. Meeting dates and agendas are posted on the Tribunal's webpage online at www.toronto.ca/council and the meetings are open to the public. The Tribunal issues written Reasons for Decision for each appeal which are posted on the Tribunal's webpage.

Where the Tribunal has made a decision on an appeal, a party can also request that the Tribunal review that decision and hold a review hearing on the matter. The Chair may consider whether to grant such a request under the Tribunal's rules of procedure.

The Dangerous Dog Review Tribunal Chair's 2019 Annual Report is contained in Attachment 1.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Carleton Grant
Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 - Dangerous Dog Review Tribunal Chair's Annual Report for the
Economic and Community Development Committee - 2019