

WESTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

407 Ransom Street
Chapel Hill, NC 27516

TO: Mayor and Town Council
FROM: Baird S. Grimson President
RE: Animal Control Ordinance
DATE: May 23, 2005

We have a problem in our neighborhood which does not appear to be covered under the Vicious Animal Section of the Animal Control Ordinance, specifically Section 4-16 Para (a) Item (4) which limits action to be taken against the owners of a vicious dog only if the attacked dog is "injured, maimed or killed."

A resident in our neighborhood has two large dogs restrained only by a perimeter electric fence. One of these dogs frequently leaves the yard with no regard to the electrical shock that should be containing it. This dog has viciously attacked at least two dogs that we know of. In neither case were the attacked dogs injured because of the very active intervention by the owners of the attacked dog. In both cases the owner of the attacking dog appeared, did very little to help and appeared totally unconcerned. Complaints have been filed and Animal Control Officer, Michael Hess, has talked to the owner, but there has been no change in the situation. We are afraid that there will be a tragedy if something does not change here.

We do not believe that this is a problem unique to our neighborhood so we ask that the town revisit the Animal Control Ordinance and consider requiring owners of dogs that are not properly and safely contained by invisible or visible fences and have demonstrated that they are a threat to other dogs and their owners either be kept inside or be physically restrained by a leash or a visible fence that is high enough to contain it.