

GAINESVILLE ORDINANCES:

Section 5-2(1), Gainesville ordinances, provides, “[n]o owner or keeper of any animal shall permit the animal to become a public nuisance. The following can become a public nuisance and the owner or keeper of the animal can be cited for any instance of: ... (e) An animal attacking another domestic animal.”

ALACHUA COUNTY ORDINANCES:

Alachua County ordinances also address aggressive dogs (see 72.14-72.15, and definition at 72.02 – “Aggressive dog means any dog that has been declared aggressive as a result of an investigation and determination from animal services because the dog has severely injured or killed a companion animal while off the owner’s property), dangerous dogs (see 72.16 – 72.17.5, and definition at 72.02 – “Dangerous dog means any dog that has been declared dangerous as a result of an investigation and determination from animal services because the dog...(2) [h]as more than once severely injured or killed a companion animal while off the owner’s property...”)

The Alachua County ordinances on this issue are currently in the process of being rewritten. This issue can be discussed, if needed, with David Flagler from Alachua County Animal Control at the upcoming meeting on animal issues.

STATE STATUTES:

Chapter 767, entitled “Damage by Dogs”, governs this area at the state level.

767.01 provides for owner liability for damages to persons, domestic animals, and livestock

767.03 provides a legal defense for killing a dog when it had been or was killing any domestic animal

767.04 provides for liability to a dog’s owner for damages to persons bitten

767.11 provides definitions of dangerous dogs

767.12 provides for classification by animal control of dogs as dangerous, requiring special registration, permanent identification, proper enclosure, and muzzling requirements when the animal is taken outside

767.13 provides for a criminal offense for owners of dangerous dogs (who have previously been declared as such) who bite or attack a person or domestic animal without provocation, and for confiscation, quarantine, and destruction for the animal

767.14 allows local governments to place further restrictions or additional requirements on owners of dangerous dogs