

First Regular Session  
Sixty-ninth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 13-0799.02 Kate Meyer x4348

SENATE BILL 13-226

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SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Balmer and Guzman,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Court and Coram,

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Senate Committees  
Judiciary

House Committees

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING THE CREATION OF THE "DOG PROTECTION ACT".

Bill Summary

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://www.leg.state.co.us/billsummaries>.)*

In order to prevent or reduce the number of dogs shot by officers of municipal police departments and sheriffs' offices (collectively, "local law enforcement officers"), the bill requires local law enforcement agencies to:

- ! Develop training programs to prepare local law enforcement officers for encounters with dogs in the line of duty, which training must emphasize how to recognize

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.*  
*Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

common dog behaviors and how to employ nonlethal methods to control or respond to dogs; and

- ! Adopt policies and procedures setting forth the appropriate ways to handle dog encounters, including policies and procedures that allow dog owners to remove or control their dogs whenever circumstances warrant.

The bill creates a dog protection task force to set minimum standards for qualified animal behavior experts or licensed veterinarians who provide the required training to local law enforcement officers, to develop minimum training curricula to be used by local law enforcement agencies, and to develop web- or video-based training that may be used by local law enforcement agencies.

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1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly  
3 hereby declares that:

4 (a) Dogs are one of the most beloved and popular animals in the  
5 United States;

6 (b) According to its 2011-2012 national survey of pet owners, the  
7 American Pet Products Association estimates that there are over  
8 seventy-eight million dogs in the United States, with approximately  
9 forty-six million American households currently containing at least one  
10 dog;

11 (c) "Dog Fancy" magazine has recognized Colorado as one of the  
12 most dog-friendly states, and Colorado often is listed as one of the top  
13 states in per capita dog ownership;

14 (d) Many Coloradans cherish their dogs and consider them to be  
15 members of their families.

16 (2) The general assembly further finds and declares that:

17 (a) In Colorado alone, there are multiple instances every year of  
18 dogs being shot by local law enforcement officers;

19 (b) Many of those dogs are beloved pet, service and companion,

1 sporting, and working dogs, most of which were docile and well-trained  
2 and had no history of threatening behavior, and in many of these cases,  
3 the dogs were shot despite not exhibiting any signs of aggression;

4 (c) In the last five years alone, there have been more than thirty  
5 dog shootings by local law enforcement officers in Colorado;

6 (d) Some of the more notable recent dog shootings include:

7 (I) On January 14, 2013, eight-year-old Ziggy, a blue  
8 heeler-border collie mixed-breed dog, was shot and killed by a local law  
9 enforcement officer who was responding to a call at the wrong address.  
10 Ziggy had no history of aggression.

11 (II) On November 24, 2012, Chloe, a mixed-breed therapy pet  
12 who was staying with a relative of her owner, exited an open garage door.  
13 When police were notified that an unfamiliar dog was running loose on  
14 the street, Chloe was restrained in an animal control snare pole, shocked  
15 with a taser, and shot five times by a local law enforcement officer. The  
16 shots ricocheted and came close to hitting an animal control officer who  
17 was trying to remove Chloe.

18 (III) Scar, an eight-year-old bulldog mix, was shot in the face on  
19 August 26, 2012, by a local law enforcement officer pursuing a person  
20 wanted on a misdemeanor drug charge. Witnesses described Scar, who  
21 never left his front yard, as not barking, growling, snarling, or otherwise  
22 displaying vicious or aggressive behavior. Scar languished in great pain  
23 and then died.

24 (IV) On May 10, 2011, local law enforcement officers received  
25 a 9-1-1 call. An officer responded to the call but went to the wrong  
26 address. He was walking to the correct address when the owner's two  
27 dogs, Ava, a German shepherd, and Ivy, a golden retriever, noticed the

1 officer. Friendly and curious, Ava and Ivy approached the officer, Ava  
2 with a rawhide treat in her mouth. The officer immediately raised his  
3 weapon and Ava's owner called to her. As Ava turned to look at her  
4 owner, the officer shot Ava and killed her. The rawhide bone that fell  
5 from her mouth when she was shot was lying next to her when she died.  
6 The dog's family filed civil suit against the local law enforcement agency  
7 and the shooting officer, and the case is currently pending in United  
8 States District Court for the District of Colorado.

9 (V) On February 5, 2010, Zoey was fatally shot and killed by a  
10 local law enforcement officer responding to an accidental 9-1-1 call. The  
11 officer arrived at Zoey's home knowing the call was made in error, but  
12 still had her weapon drawn. A witness saw Zoey standing in the driveway  
13 as the officer approached. The officer shot Zoey, killing her.

14 (VI) On September 8, 2008, the owner of Rocky, a yellow  
15 labrador, and Angel, a Chihuahua-poodle mix, became aware that a door  
16 in the garage had accidentally been left open by a member of the family.  
17 The two dogs had slipped out of the open door. When they went to search  
18 for the dogs, the family found that Rocky had been shot twice and was  
19 deceased. Eyewitnesses at the scene stated that Rocky was fleeing from  
20 a local law enforcement officer when the officer discharged his weapon  
21 twice, shooting Rocky in the back and in the head. Rocky died of his  
22 wounds, which were later determined to be consistent with the dog having  
23 been shot from behind while fleeing from the officer.

24 (VII) On July 2, 2008, Molly and Sage, two friendly dogs who had  
25 never attacked any person or exhibited any aggressive behavior, managed  
26 to exit their owner's front porch, but never left their yard. Despite the fact  
27 that the police officer suffered no sign of attack or injury, Molly was shot

1 and killed by the officer responding to a call about the dogs running  
2 at-large. Molly was left to suffer and die without an attempt to render  
3 veterinary care.

4 (VIII) Jake, an eleven-year-old senior German shepherd dog, was  
5 shot by a local law enforcement officer on July 27, 2007, who was  
6 responding to a call about a radio being too loud. Jake came to the door  
7 by the side of his owner to greet the officer and without warning, was  
8 immediately shot in the back of the head. Jake survived the gunshot  
9 wound. As a result of the shooting, the city in which the local law  
10 enforcement agency is located was sued in federal court. That suit was  
11 settled with an agreement that the local law enforcement agency would  
12 consider implementing new training for dog encounters.

13 (IX) On January 18, 2013, local law enforcement officers were  
14 called to a residence to assist medical personnel conducting a welfare  
15 check. During the welfare check, Kupa, the residence owner's service  
16 dog, was shot and killed by officers. Some eyewitnesses reported that  
17 Kupa, a service dog specially trained to avoid conflict, displayed no  
18 aggression toward the officers. Several days after the shooting, Kupa's  
19 owner fell and cut open her head because she did not have Kupa's  
20 assistance. The owner's wound was so severe that medical personnel at  
21 the hospital had to insert staples into the side of her head to close the  
22 wound.

23 (e) In its 2012 report "The Problem of Dog-Related Incidents and  
24 Encounters" (available on-line at [http://cops.usdoj.gov/RIC/Resource](http://cops.usdoj.gov/RIC/ResourceDetail.aspx?RID=612)  
25 [Detail.aspx?RID=612](http://cops.usdoj.gov/RIC/ResourceDetail.aspx?RID=612) when accessed on February 26, 2013), the office  
26 of community oriented policing services, a component of the United  
27 States department of justice, found that, in most police departments, the

1 majority of intentional firearm discharges involve animals, and of those  
2 shootings, most frequently dogs.

3 (f) Deadly force, which should be an option of last resort, is rarely  
4 necessary to defuse the situations or mitigate any risk presented by dogs.  
5 For example, employees of landscaping companies and delivery  
6 companies routinely encounter dogs in their lines of work and are able to  
7 work successfully with dog owners to handle issues presented by their  
8 dogs without resorting to shooting dogs.

9 (g) These shooting tragedies cause profound grief to the dogs'  
10 owners, trauma to families and neighbors witnessing the incidents, great  
11 physical suffering to the dogs, and undermine the confidence that  
12 communities have in their law enforcement to protect and serve in an  
13 appropriate and humane manner.

14 (3) The general assembly further finds, determines, and declares  
15 that:

16 (a) Colorado's law enforcement officers perform honorably,  
17 courageously, and selflessly, and their safety remains of paramount  
18 importance;

19 (b) Given the high incidence of dog ownership in the state, local  
20 law enforcement officers routinely encounter dogs while performing their  
21 myriad duties;

22 (c) Some local law enforcement officers may not have much  
23 experience dealing with dogs and may thus have a fear of dogs or may be  
24 unfamiliar with typical dog behaviors;

25 (d) In discharging their firearms to shoot dogs, local law  
26 enforcement officers may experience regret for causing pain to the dog  
27 or the dog's family or for not being aware of other ways the situation

1 could have been addressed;

2 (e) Increasing such officers' knowledge of, and comfort with,  
3 interactions with dogs will better protect the local law enforcement  
4 officers in the course of performing their duties; and

5 (f) Although some local law enforcement officers do handle dog  
6 encounters in an appropriate manner and some local law enforcement  
7 agencies already conduct training in canine behavior, there clearly exists  
8 a need to provide training to local law enforcement officers so that they  
9 are prepared to encounter dogs. There is also a clear need for local law  
10 enforcement agencies to establish and follow local policies setting forth  
11 the appropriate methods to handle those encounters, which methods take  
12 into account a range of nonlethal alternatives and allow dogs to be  
13 controlled or removed by their owners.

14 (4) The general assembly finds and declares that it is a matter of  
15 statewide concern to require local law enforcement officers to receive  
16 training on differentiating between aggressive and nonthreatening dog  
17 behaviors, learn to utilize alternatives to lethal force, learn how to  
18 properly utilize animal control officers, and allow dog owners an  
19 opportunity to intervene and save their dogs, as the totality of the  
20 circumstances warrant. It is the intent of the general assembly, in creating  
21 this act, to eliminate or reduce the number of dogs shot in the context of  
22 law enforcement encounters. In order to prevent or reduce the shooting  
23 of dogs in the state, while maximizing local control by allowing local law  
24 enforcement agencies to most effectively and appropriately determine  
25 how to comply with the requirements of this act, the general assembly  
26 further intends that local law enforcement agencies develop and  
27 implement training and written policies and procedures in accordance

1 with this act.

2 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 29-5-112 as  
3 follows:

4 **29-5-112. Dog interactions with local law enforcement officers**  
5 **- training to be provided by local law enforcement agencies - policies**  
6 **and procedures - scope - task force - creation - composition -**  
7 **immunity - definitions - short title - legislative declaration.** (1) **Short**  
8 **title.** THIS SECTION SHALL BE KNOWN AND MAY BE CITED AS THE "DOG  
9 PROTECTION ACT".

10 (2) **Legislative declaration.** THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS,  
11 DETERMINES, AND DECLARES THAT IT IS THE POLICY OF THIS STATE AND A  
12 MATTER OF STATEWIDE CONCERN TO PREVENT, WHENEVER POSSIBLE, THE  
13 SHOOTING OF DOGS BY LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS IN THE  
14 COURSE OF PERFORMING THEIR OFFICIAL DUTIES. IT IS THEREFORE THE  
15 INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ADOPTING THIS SECTION TO:

16 (a) REQUIRE TRAINING FOR OFFICERS OF LOCAL LAW  
17 ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES ON DIFFERENTIATING BETWEEN CANINE  
18 BEHAVIORS THAT INDICATE IMMINENT DANGER OF ATTACK TO PERSONS  
19 AND BENIGN BEHAVIORS COMMONLY EXHIBITED BY DOGS, SUCH AS  
20 BARKING, THAT DO NOT SUGGEST OR POSE IMMINENT DANGER OF ATTACK;

21 (b) REQUIRE LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES IN THE STATE  
22 TO ADOPT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR USE OF LETHAL AND  
23 NONLETHAL FORCE AGAINST DOGS, WHICH POLICIES AND PROCEDURES  
24 MUST:

25 (I) EMPHASIZE ALTERNATIVE METHODS THAT MAY BE EMPLOYED  
26 WHEN DOGS ARE ENCOUNTERED; AND

27 (II) ALLOW A DOG OWNER OR ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER,

1 WHENEVER THE OWNER OR AN ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER IS PRESENT AND  
2 IT IS FEASIBLE, THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONTROL OR REMOVE A DOG FROM  
3 THE IMMEDIATE AREA IN ORDER TO PERMIT A LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT  
4 OFFICER TO DISCHARGE HIS OR HER DUTIES.

5 (3) **Definitions.** AS USED IN THIS SECTION:

6 (a) "DOG" MEANS ANY CANINE ANIMAL OWNED FOR DOMESTIC,  
7 COMPANIONSHIP, SERVICE, THERAPEUTIC, ASSISTANCE, SPORTING,  
8 WORKING, RANCHING, OR SHEPHERDING PURPOSES.

9 (b) "DOG OWNER" MEANS A PERSON OWNING, POSSESSING,  
10 HARBORING, KEEPING, HAVING GUARDIANSHIP OF, HAVING FINANCIAL OR  
11 PROPERTY INTEREST IN, OR HAVING CONTROL OR CUSTODY OF, A DOG.

12 (c) "LICENSED VETERINARIAN" MEANS A PERSON WHO IS LICENSED  
13 PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 64 OF TITLE 12, C.R.S., TO PRACTICE VETERINARY  
14 MEDICINE IN THIS STATE.

15 (d) "LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY" MEANS A MUNICIPAL  
16 POLICE DEPARTMENT OR A COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE.

17 (e) "LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER" MEANS ANY OFFICER IN  
18 A LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY. THE TERM DOES NOT INCLUDE AN  
19 ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER, CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER, OR A DEPUTY  
20 SHERIFF WHO IS ASSIGNED EXCLUSIVELY TO WORK IN JAILS, COURT  
21 SECURITY, OR ADMINISTRATION.

22 (4) **Training required.** (a) (I) EACH LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT  
23 AGENCY IS REQUIRED TO PROVIDE TO ITS OFFICERS TRAINING PERTAINING  
24 TO ENCOUNTERS WITH DOGS IN THE COURSE OF DUTY. AT A MINIMUM, THE  
25 TRAINING MUST COVER THE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES ADOPTED BY THE  
26 AGENCY PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (6) OF THIS SECTION AND ASSIST  
27 OFFICERS IN ASSESSING WHAT DOG POSTURE, BARKING AND OTHER

1 VOCALIZATIONS, AND FACIAL EXPRESSIONS TYPICALLY SIGNIFY, THE  
2 OPTIONS FOR DISTRACTING AND ESCAPING FROM A DOG, OPTIONS FOR  
3 SAFELY CAPTURING A DOG, AND DEFENSIVE OPTIONS IN DEALING WITH A  
4 DOG.

5 (II) EACH LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY IN THE STATE  
6 SHALL:

7 (A) DEVELOP, BY SEPTEMBER 1, 2014, A TRAINING PROGRAM  
8 CONSISTENT WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION AND THE MINIMUM  
9 TRAINING CURRICULA DEVELOPED BY THE DOG PROTECTION TASK FORCE  
10 PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (5) OF THIS SECTION;

11 (B) REQUIRE ITS CURRENT LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS TO  
12 COMPLETE THE TRAINING PROGRAM REQUIRED BY THIS SUBSECTION (4) BY  
13 JANUARY 1, 2015; AND

14 (C) REQUIRE ALL LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS HIRED ON  
15 OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 2015, TO COMPLETE THE TRAINING REQUIRED BY  
16 THIS SUBSECTION (4) WITHIN EACH OFFICER'S FIRST YEAR OF EMPLOYMENT.

17 (b) (I) IN ESTABLISHING THE TRAINING PROGRAM REQUIRED BY  
18 THIS SUBSECTION (4), A LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY SHALL ADOPT  
19 OR INCORPORATE ANY MINIMUM TRAINING CURRICULA DEVELOPED BY THE  
20 DOG PROTECTION TASK FORCE CREATED IN SUBSECTION (5) OF THIS  
21 SECTION.

22 (II) THE TRAINING PROGRAM REQUIRED BY THIS SUBSECTION (4)  
23 MUST BE WHOLLY OR PRINCIPALLY PROVIDED OR OVERSEEN BY EITHER A  
24 QUALIFIED ANIMAL BEHAVIOR EXPERT OR LICENSED VETERINARIAN. THE  
25 QUALIFIED ANIMAL BEHAVIOR EXPERT OR LICENSED VETERINARIAN  
26 SELECTED TO PROVIDE THE TRAINING MUST POSSESS THE MINIMUM  
27 QUALIFICATIONS SPECIFIED BY THE DOG PROTECTION TASK FORCE

1       CREATED IN SUBSECTION (5) OF THIS SECTION.

2               (III) IN ORDER TO REDUCE THE COSTS OF PROVIDING THE TRAINING  
3 PROGRAM REQUIRED BY THIS SUBSECTION (4), A LOCAL LAW  
4 ENFORCEMENT AGENCY MAY DEVELOP ITS OWN WEB- OR VIDEO-BASED  
5 TRAINING OR UTILIZE SUCH TRAINING DEVELOPED BY THE DOG  
6 PROTECTION TASK FORCE UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (III) OF PARAGRAPH (d)  
7 OF SUBSECTION (5) OF THIS SECTION, AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT  
8 AGENCIES ARE ENCOURAGED TO SEEK QUALIFIED ANIMAL BEHAVIOR  
9 EXPERTS OR LICENSED VETERINARIANS WHO WILL VOLUNTEER TO PROVIDE  
10 OR PARTICIPATE IN THE TRAINING.

11               (IV) A LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY MAY COLLABORATE  
12 WITH COUNTY SHERIFFS OF COLORADO, INCORPORATED, THE COLORADO  
13 ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE, THE COLORADO FRATERNAL ORDER OF  
14 POLICE, AND THE COLORADO VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, AS  
15 WELL AS NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS ENGAGED IN ANIMAL WELFARE, TO  
16 DEVELOP THE TRAINING PROGRAM REQUIRED BY THIS SUBSECTION (4).

17               (c) (I) THE TRAINING PROGRAM REQUIRED BY THIS SUBSECTION (4)  
18 MUST CONSIST OF A MINIMUM OF THREE HOURS OF TRAINING FOR LOCAL  
19 LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS.

20               (II) NOTHING IN THIS SECTION PREVENTS A LOCAL LAW  
21 ENFORCEMENT AGENCY FROM IMPLEMENTING A TRAINING PROGRAM OR  
22 ADOPTING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES THAT EXCEED THE MINIMUM  
23 NUMBER OF HOURS OR OTHER REQUIREMENTS SET FORTH IN THIS SECTION  
24 AND BY THE DOG PROTECTION TASK FORCE PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (5)  
25 OF THIS SECTION.

26               (5) **Task force.** (a) THERE IS HEREBY CREATED THE DOG  
27 PROTECTION TASK FORCE.

1 (b) (I) THE TASK FORCE CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING  
2 TWENTY-THREE MEMBERS:

3 (A) THREE LICENSED VETERINARIANS APPOINTED BY THE  
4 COLORADO VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OR ITS SUCCESSOR  
5 ENTITY;

6 (B) TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COLORADO FEDERATION OF  
7 ANIMAL WELFARE AGENCIES OR ITS SUCCESSOR ENTITY;

8 (C) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COLORADO FEDERATION OF DOG  
9 CLUBS OR ITS SUCCESSOR ENTITY;

10 (D) TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COLORADO ASSOCIATION OF  
11 ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICERS OR ITS SUCCESSOR ENTITY;

12 (E) THREE SHERIFFS OR DEPUTY SHERIFFS REPRESENTING COUNTY  
13 SHERIFFS OF COLORADO, INCORPORATED, OR ITS SUCCESSOR ENTITY, ONE  
14 OF WHOM MUST HAVE AT LEAST TWO YEARS OF EXPERIENCE WORKING IN  
15 A K-9 UNIT AND ONE OF WHOM MUST WORK IN A COUNTY WITH A  
16 POPULATION OF FEWER THAN ONE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND PERSONS;

17 (F) THREE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COLORADO ASSOCIATION OF  
18 CHIEFS OF POLICE OR ITS SUCCESSOR ENTITY, ONE OF WHOM MUST HAVE AT  
19 LEAST TWO YEARS OF EXPERIENCE WORKING IN A K-9 UNIT AND ONE OF  
20 WHOM MUST WORK IN A MUNICIPALITY WITH A POPULATION OF FEWER  
21 THAN TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND PERSONS;

22 (G) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COLORADO FRATERNAL ORDER  
23 OF POLICE OR ITS SUCCESSOR ENTITY;

24 (H) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF COLORADO COUNTIES,  
25 INCORPORATED, OR ITS SUCCESSOR ENTITY;

26 (I) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COLORADO MUNICIPAL LEAGUE  
27 OR ITS SUCCESSOR ENTITY;

1           (J) THREE PERSONS APPOINTED BY THE COLORADO BAR  
2 ASSOCIATION OR ITS SUCCESSOR ENTITY, TWO OF WHOM MUST BE  
3 ATTORNEYS WITH EXPERTISE AND EXPERIENCE IN ANIMAL LAW AND DOG  
4 SHOOTING CASES, AND ONE OF WHOM MUST BE A PERSON WHO OWNS OR  
5 OWNED A DOG SHOT BY A LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER; AND

6           (K) THREE MEMBERS, APPOINTED BY THE COLORADO VETERINARY  
7 MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, WITH EXPERTISE IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE, CANINE  
8 BEHAVIOR, OR OTHER ANIMAL BEHAVIOR.

9           (II) THE ENTITIES RESPONSIBLE FOR APPOINTING TASK FORCE  
10 MEMBERS SHALL NOTIFY THE COLORADO VETERINARY MEDICAL  
11 ASSOCIATION IN WRITING OF THE IDENTITY OF THEIR APPOINTEES PRIOR TO  
12 THE FIRST MEETING OF THE TASK FORCE AND UPON ANY CHANGE IN THEIR  
13 APPOINTEES.

14           (III) MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE SHALL NOT BE COMPENSATED  
15 FOR, OR REIMBURSED FOR EXPENSES INCURRED IN, ATTENDING MEETINGS  
16 OF THE TASK FORCE.

17           (IV) THE FOLLOWING TWO MEMBERS ARE CO-CHAIRS OF THE TASK  
18 FORCE:

19           (A) ONE OF THE VETERINARIANS APPOINTED PURSUANT TO  
20 SUB-SUBPARAGRAPH (A) OF SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH (b),  
21 WHICH CO-CHAIR SHALL BE NAMED BY THE COLORADO VETERINARY  
22 MEDICAL ASSOCIATION; AND

23           (B) ONE OF THE MEMBERS APPOINTED PURSUANT TO EITHER  
24 SUB-SUBPARAGRAPH (E) OR (F) OF SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH  
25 (b), AS MUTUALLY AGREED TO BY THE APPOINTING AUTHORITIES.

26           (c) (I) THE TASK FORCE SHALL HOLD ITS FIRST MEETING NO LATER  
27 THAN SEPTEMBER 1, 2013.

1 (II) (A) THE TASK FORCE SHALL MEET AS OFTEN AS NECESSARY TO  
2 COMPLETE THE TASKS DESCRIBED UNDER PARAGRAPH (d) OF THIS  
3 SUBSECTION (5) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2014.

4 (B) AFTER JULY 1, 2014, AND PRIOR TO JANUARY 31, 2015, THE  
5 TASK FORCE SHALL MEET AS OFTEN AS IT DEEMS NECESSARY, BUT NO LESS  
6 FREQUENTLY THAN ONCE, TO ENSURE THAT THE CURRICULUM,  
7 GUIDELINES, AND WEB- OR VIDEO-BASED TRAINING ARE IMPLEMENTED  
8 AND EFFECTIVE.

9 (III) THE TASK FORCE SHALL HOLD ITS MEETINGS AND STAFF THOSE  
10 MEETINGS IN A LOCATION OFFERED FOR THOSE PURPOSES BY ONE OF THE  
11 ENTITIES REPRESENTED WITH TASK FORCE MEMBERSHIP, WITH PREFERENCE  
12 ACCORDED FOR THE PRINCIPAL OFFICE OF THE COLORADO VETERINARY  
13 MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

14 (d) BY JULY 1, 2014, THE TASK FORCE SHALL:

15 (I) DEVELOP MINIMUM TRAINING CURRICULA THAT A LOCAL LAW  
16 ENFORCEMENT AGENCY MUST USE TO FULFILL THE TRAINING  
17 REQUIREMENT OF SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF PARAGRAPH (a) OF SUBSECTION  
18 (4) OF THIS SECTION;

19 (II) SPECIFY THE APPROPRIATE MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS,  
20 INCLUDING EDUCATION, EXPERIENCE, OR SKILLS, THAT AN ANIMAL  
21 BEHAVIOR EXPERT OR LICENSED VETERINARIAN PROVIDING THE TRAINING  
22 PURSUANT TO SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF PARAGRAPH (b) OF SUBSECTION (4)  
23 OF THIS SECTION MUST POSSESS; AND

24 (III) DEVELOP WEB- OR VIDEO-BASED TRAINING THAT MAY BE  
25 UTILIZED BY A LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY TO FULFILL THE  
26 TRAINING REQUIREMENT OF SUBSECTION (4) OF THIS SECTION.

27 (e) THE CURRICULA, QUALIFICATIONS, AND WEB- OR VIDEO-BASED

1 INSTRUCTION DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH (d) OF THIS SUBSECTION (5) MUST  
2 BE READILY ACCESSIBLE BY COLORADO'S LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT  
3 AGENCIES ON ONE OR MORE INTERNET WEB SITES DESIGNATED BY THE  
4 TASK FORCE.

5 (f) THE TASK FORCE CREATED BY PARAGRAPH (a) OF THIS  
6 SUBSECTION (5) IS DISSOLVED, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 31, 2015.

7 (6) **Policies and procedures.** (a) (I) IN ADDITION TO THE  
8 TRAINING PROGRAM DEVELOPED UNDER SUBSECTION (4) OF THIS SECTION,  
9 NOT LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 1, 2014, EACH LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT  
10 AGENCY IN THE STATE SHALL ADOPT WRITTEN POLICIES AND PROCEDURES  
11 THAT ARE SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED TO ADDRESS ENCOUNTERS WITH DOGS  
12 OCCURRING IN THE COURSE OF DUTY AND THE USE OF FORCE AGAINST  
13 SUCH DOGS.

14 (II) AT A MINIMUM, THE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MUST  
15 ADDRESS THE FOLLOWING:

16 (A) THE IDENTIFICATION AND MEANING OF COMMON CANINE  
17 BEHAVIORS, AND DIFFERENTIATING BETWEEN DOGS THAT ARE EXHIBITING  
18 BEHAVIOR THAT PUTS LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS OR OTHER  
19 PERSONS IN IMMINENT DANGER AND DOGS WHO ARE NOT ENGAGING IN  
20 SUCH BEHAVIOR;

21 (B) THE ALTERNATIVES TO LETHAL USE OF FORCE AGAINST DOGS;

22 (C) THE REASONABLE OPPORTUNITY FOR A DOG OWNER TO  
23 CONTROL OR REMOVE HIS OR HER DOG FROM THE IMMEDIATE AREA. THE  
24 POLICIES AND PROCEDURES ADOPTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS  
25 SUB-SUBPARAGRAPH (C) MUST ALLOW A LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT  
26 OFFICER TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE OFFICER'S OWN SAFETY AND THE  
27 SAFETY OF OTHER PERSONS IN THE AREA, THE AVAILABILITY OF

1 NONLETHAL EQUIPMENT, THE FEASIBILITY OF SO ALLOWING A DOG OWNER  
2 TO ACT CONSIDERING THE TOTALITY OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES, INCLUDING  
3 THE PRESENCE OF AN ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER OR WHETHER THE CALL  
4 IS A LOCATION THAT IS LISTED IN THE DANGEROUS DOG REGISTRY CREATED  
5 IN SECTION 35-42-115, C.R.S., OR IS A LOCATION AT WHICH ILLEGAL  
6 NARCOTICS ARE SUSPECTED TO BE MANUFACTURED OR TRAFFICKED, OR  
7 ANY EXIGENCIES THAT MAY BE PRESENT, SUCH AS WHEN THE LOCAL LAW  
8 ENFORCEMENT OFFICER IS RESPONDING TO A CALL THAT ASSERTS OR  
9 SUGGESTS THAT A PERSON HAS BEEN BITTEN BY A DOG OR IS IN PHYSICAL  
10 DANGER.

11 (b) EACH LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY SHALL MAKE THE  
12 WRITTEN POLICIES AND PROCEDURES AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC FOR  
13 INSPECTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE "COLORADO OPEN RECORDS ACT",  
14 PART 2 OF ARTICLE 72 OF TITLE 24, C.R.S.

15 (7) **Immunity.** (a) ALL TASK FORCE MEMBERS, AS VOLUNTEERS,  
16 ARE IMMUNE FROM CIVIL ACTIONS AND LIABILITIES PURSUANT TO SECTION  
17 13-21-115.5, C.R.S.

18 (b) A QUALIFIED ANIMAL BEHAVIOR EXPERT OR LICENSED  
19 VETERINARIAN PROVIDING THE TRAINING AND INSTRUCTION IN  
20 ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION IS IMMUNE FROM ANY LIABILITY,  
21 WHETHER CIVIL OR CRIMINAL, FOR THE GOOD FAITH PERFORMANCE OF  
22 THOSE DUTIES.

23 (8) **Scope and effect.** (a) THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY TO LOCAL  
24 LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AND IS NOT INTENDED TO AFFECT,  
25 IMPLICATE, OR ABROGATE THE AUTHORITY OF THE PEACE OFFICERS  
26 STANDARDS AND TRAINING BOARD CREATED IN PART 3 OF ARTICLE 31 OF  
27 TITLE 24, C.R.S.

1 (b) THIS SECTION IS NOT INTENDED TO APPLY TO SITUATIONS IN  
2 WHICH A DOG IS SHOT ACCIDENTALLY, INCLUDING WHEN A LOCAL LAW  
3 ENFORCEMENT OFFICER INTENDS TO FIRE AT A PERSON BUT  
4 INADVERTENTLY SHOOTS A DOG.

5 (c) NOTHING IN THIS SECTION AFFECTS OR ABROGATES THE  
6 ABILITY OF ANY DULY AUTHORIZED PERSON TO IMPOUND OR EUTHANIZE  
7 A DOG IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 18-9-202.5, C.R.S., OR IN  
8 ACCORDANCE WITH ANY RESOLUTION ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SECTION  
9 30-15-101, C.R.S.

10 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 13-21-115.5, **add** (3)  
11 (c) (II) (T) as follows:

12 **13-21-115.5. Volunteer service act - immunity - exception for**  
13 **operation of motor vehicles - repeal.** (3) As used in this section, unless  
14 the context otherwise requires:

15 (c) (II) "Volunteer" includes:

16 (T) A MEMBER OF THE DOG PROTECTION TASK FORCE CREATED IN  
17 SECTION 29-5-112 (5), C.R.S. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, THE  
18 DOG PROTECTION TASK FORCE CONSTITUTES A "GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY".  
19 THE MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE ARE EXEMPT FROM THE ANNUAL  
20 VERIFICATION REQUIREMENT SET FORTH IN SUBPARAGRAPH (III) OF THIS  
21 PARAGRAPH (c). THIS SUB-SUBPARAGRAPH (T) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE  
22 JANUARY 31, 2015.

23 **SECTION 4. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,  
24 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
25 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.