



One Hundred First Legislature - First Session - 2009
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 494

Chairperson: Brad Ashford
Committee: Judiciary
Date of Hearing: February 11, 2009

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

This legislation seeks to amend section 54-622, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and sections 54-617, 3 54-620, 54-623, 54-623.01, and 54-624, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2008; to change provisions relating to dangerous dogs. LB 494 will increase the criminal penalties for owners of dangerous dogs, a term which is rigorously defined within the bill.

LB 494 is not breed specific. The intent of LB 494 is to strengthen the criminal liability for owners of dogs whose dog committed, or attempted to commit, a subsequent violent act. The definition of dangerous dog reflects that intent. Criminal penalties will not be applied to the owner of a dog whose dog has no previous record of committing, or attempting to commit, a violent act.

This bill addresses the situation when a dog commits an act of mutilation, or significant bodily harm. The change being sought is charging owners of a dangerous dog with a Class IV felony. Should the owner of a dangerous dog be found guilty of a crime not arising to the criteria of a Class IV felony this legislation provides the ability to impose Class IV and Class IIIa misdemeanor penalties.

Principal Introducer: _____
Senator Beau McCoy