

# Choosing a Dog Trainer

*There are many different training philosophies and techniques practiced by animal trainers/consultants. It is important you find a qualified trainer/consultant that is qualified and competent to perform a safe evaluation and behavior modifications for your animal.*

*It is important to consider the behavior modification your dog needs and make sure you choose a trainer/consultant who is able to address the needs of your dog. For example; socialization, on leash reactivity, prey drive, dog aggression, and leash walking.*

## Guidelines for selecting a trainer

Below is a list of web sites that may help you choose a qualified trainer/consultant. If you have been court ordered to attend behavior training for your dog, you will need to follow the recommended classes to achieve the best results for your dog's behavior. The trainer/consultant should be prepared to provide the court with an evaluation of the dog's training and progress.

*You should look for a trainer who is certified in dog behavior and/or training.*

- Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers - [www.ccpdt.org](http://www.ccpdt.org)
- The Association of Professional Dog Trainers- [www.apdt.com](http://www.apdt.com)
- International Association of Canine Professionals - [www.canineprofessionals.com](http://www.canineprofessionals.com)
- Humane Society of the Boulder Valley - <https://training.boulderhumane.org/>
- Longmont Humane Society - <https://www.longmonthumane.org/>

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## Westminster Animal Management

Emergency: 911  
Non-Emergency: (303) 658-4360  
Animal Management: (303) 658-4326

## Surrounding Animal Control Agencies

Adams County (303) 288-1535  
Arvada (720) 898-7000  
Broomfield (303) 438-6400  
Denver (720) 913-1311  
Federal Heights (303) 428-8833  
Jefferson County (303) 271-5070  
Northglenn (303) 287-7453  
Thornton (720) 977-5250



**Animal Shelters**  
**Foothills Animal Shelter**  
580 McIntyre St. Golden, CO  
80401  
(303) 278-7575  
[www.FoothillsAnimalShelter.org](http://www.FoothillsAnimalShelter.org)

Adams County Animal Shelter (303) 288-3294  
Denver Dumb Friends League (303) 751-9688  
Humane Society of Boulder Valley (970) 442-4030



WESTMINSTER

# Potentially Dangerous and Vicious Dogs

## Requirements and Management



Provided by the  
Westminster Public Safety Center  
Animal Management Unit  
9110 Yates Street  
Westminster, CO 80031  
(303) 658-4326  
[www.westminsterco.gov](http://www.westminsterco.gov)

## Vicious/Potentially Dangerous Dog

In the City of Westminster, an animal may be deemed vicious or potentially dangerous if it causes harm to a person or other animal, or acts in a way which may pose a threat to public safety. Vicious charges may be warranted if the animal causes serious injury or death of a person or animal.



## Owner Responsibility

Dog owners have the responsibility to ensure their dog is not a risk to public safety. Owners should ensure their animals are contained securely on their property to avoid escape. They also must ensure their animals are not acting aggressively at the fence or encroaching on adjoining properties or public property or sidewalks.

Owners must properly control their animals while on leash to avoid harm to other people or animals.

## Behavior Modification

The Potentially Dangerous and Vicious ordinance was written in such a way to guide pet owners in a direction to recognize and help modify the behavior of their pets. Our goal is to help you take steps to modify the behavior of your pet or to take measures to properly manage the pet so it will no longer be a threat to public safety.

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*I received a summons for  
Vicious/Potentially Dangerous  
Dog.*

*Now what?*

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If you have received a summons to court, if found guilty of possessing a potentially dangerous or vicious animal, you will be instructed to meet some requirements of ownership. These requirements are geared toward housing, training and management of your animal. These requirements are implemented in an attempt to eliminate future incidents.

In some cases, you may receive a warning that your pet is exhibiting behaviors which appear to be a concern to public safety. It is recommended you address and implement the requirements in this brochure to head off an impending violation.

Animal Management Officers may be able to offer suggestions to help you manage your pet or modify the undesired behavior.

## Requirements for Possession

If you have been convicted of possessing a potentially dangerous or vicious animal, the City of Westminster will require you to meet the following requirements.

### Proper enclosure

Secure confinement indoors or secure confinement in a locked pen, fenced yard or structure at least 6'x12' with a secure top and floor to prevent escape over or under, as specified in the ordinance. When off the property of the owner, the animal must be restrained by a leash not exceeding 6' in length.

### Socialization/Behavior Class

The animal and owner must complete a behavior training program. To find a creditable trainer/consultant, see the back of this brochure. The number of classes is based on the recommendation of the trainer/consultant to modify the dog's behavior.

### Spayed or Neutered

The animal must be spayed or neutered by a licensed veterinarian.

### Microchip

The animal must be microchipped and the chip must be registered with the microchip company.

***\*Vicious Animals must meet the above requirements and in addition, must be muzzled when off its property and walked on a 4' in length leash. The owner must also maintain a policy of insurance in the amount of at least \$100,000.***