

BY adding to

Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments  
Section 70E  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(1982 Replacement Volume and 1987 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments

70E.

(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

{2}-{1}--"DANGEROUS-DOG"--MEANS-ANY-DOG-THAT:

1.--HAS--A--KNOWN--PROPENSITY,--TENDENCY,--OR  
DISPOSITION--TO--ATTACK--UNPROVOKED,--TO--CAUSE--SEVERE--INJURY,--DAMAGE,  
OR--DEATH--TO,--OR--TO--OTHERWISE--ENDANGER--THE--SAFETY--OF--HUMANS--OR  
OTHER--DOMESTIC--ANIMALS,--OR

2.--ATTACKS--WITHOUT--PROVOCATION--A--HUMAN--OR  
A--DOMESTIC--ANIMAL;

{II}--"DANGEROUS--DOG"--DOES--NOT--INCLUDE--A--DOG  
THAT--ATTACKS--WITHOUT--PROVOCATION--AND--CAUSES--SEVERE--INJURY,  
DAMAGE,--OR--DEATH--TO--A--PERSON--WHO,--AT--THE--TIME,--WAS--COMMITTING--A  
WILLFUL--TRESPASS--OR--OTHER--TORT--UPON--THE--PREMISES--OCCUPIED--BY--THE  
OWNER--OF--THE--ANIMAL,--OR--WAS--TEASING,--TORMENTING,--ABUSING,--OR  
ASSAULTING--THE--ANIMAL,--WAS--COMMITTING--A--CRIME--OR--ATTEMPTING--TO  
COMMIT--A--CRIME;

(2) "DANGEROUS DOG" MEANS A DOG THAT:

(I) WITHOUT PROVOCATION HAS KILLED OR INFLICTED SEVERE INJURY ON A PERSON; OR

(II) IS DETERMINED BY THE APPROPRIATE COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION TO BE POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS AND, SUBSEQUENT TO THIS DETERMINATION, THE DOG ENGAGES IN 1 OR MORE OF THE BEHAVIORS LISTED UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION.

(3) "OWNER" MEANS ANY PERSON OR LEGAL ENTITY THAT:

{I} HAS A POSSESSORY PROPERTY RIGHT IN A DANGEROUS-DOG,--OR DOG.