

## **INFORMATION & INSTRUCTIONS FOR FILING A VICIOUS DOG COMPLAINT**

Please read the following very carefully as it contains extremely important information that will help you determine whether you have enough evidence to have a successful case to present to the court. It is vital that you think carefully before filing a petition due to the fact that a filing fee on your part (that you may not get back) will be required from you up front.

1. By law, a vicious dog is a dog that has successfully bitten or has attempted to bite a human being off of the premises of the owner. Therefore, if the dog has not bitten or attempted to bite a person, or if a bite or an attempted bite has occurred on the premises of the dog's owner, your petition will not be successful. This means that merely growling or chasing a person without at least an attempted bite will also result in an unsuccessful petition.
2. You must be able to testify under oath that the dog in question belongs to the person you are accusing. You must also be able to provide a full name and address so that the person you are accusing may be served a summons to appear in court.
3. You must be able to identify the dog or dogs in question with enough specificity so that the court can also identify the dog or dogs for any subsequent orders that the court might issue.
4. A dog biting or attacking another dog or other animal is not a vicious dog as defined by Kentucky law, but you may choose to file a civil petition to sue for damages that the dog may have caused.
5. You may include in your petition a claim for damages that the dog in question may have caused.
6. A copy of the Kentucky Revised Statutes containing complete definitions and procedural information is attached hereto.
7. If you choose to file a petition, you may do so at the circuit court clerk's office in this building.