## TODD SPITZER



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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Spitzer Supports County Vicious Dog Ordinance

Supervisor Spitzer calls for presumptive destruction of vicious or potentially destructive dogs and support of vicious dog website.

(Santa Ana, CA) — Supervisor Todd Spitzer said during Tuesday's Board of Supervisors meeting that dogs qualifying under the county's definition of "potentially dangerous" or "vicious" should be presumptively destroyed pending a review hearing by OC Animal Care.

Spitzer's comments were part of discussion during the Board's passage of an ordinance modifying the definitions of a vicious or potentially dangerous dog. The ordinance also allows the Director of OC Animal Care to establish a website, accessible to the public, listing the address and photo of each dog that has been declared vicious or potentially dangerous.

The changes to the definitions include dogs that, without provocation, twice in a 36-month period engage in behavior that requires a defensive action and/or dogs that, without provocation, bite a person resulting in muscle tears, disfiguring lacerations, broken bones and/or injuries where the victim is receives cosmetic surgery, multiple sutures or staples.

"If a dog breaks bones or disfigures someone so badly they require surgery, I don't want that dog anywhere in the County," Spitzer said. "I think there needs to be a presumption that if a dog meets the definition of vicious or dangerous, that animal will be destroyed unless findings otherwise are made."

In addition to vicious or potentially destructive dogs being listed on the website run by OC Animal Care, dog owners are required to take measures including limiting the dog's access to children and physically restraining the dog on and off the owner's property.

"I don't understand why anyone would want to have a vicious dog," Spitzer said. "But assuming they do, the public has a right to know that they have it."

Violations of the ordinance could result in a misdemeanor punishable by up to six months in jail and/or a \$1,000 fine.

Adoption of the ordinance is scheduled to be considered at the next Board meeting on Oct. 1.

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