

From: [Ruth Stephens](#)
To: [Public Testimony](#)
Subject: Please attach to Ordinance #250188
Date: Tuesday, March 4, 2025 12:48:25 AM

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Dear City Council members,

First, I want to thank you all for coming out to the budget hearing last Monday and listening to what your community cares about most. I was among the people who got up to speak for returning animal control to the city. Before my dog attack, I had no idea that there was an issue with KCPP's management of this service. Unfortunately, that is what most people think until they have an incident happen to them, or a loved one.

I want to share with you our initial report to KCPP's online bite report system:

REPORTER INFORMATION

Name of person reporting: Ruth Stephens

Phone of person reporting: (816) 606-2492

Add contact information to this case?: Yes

Purpose of report: Animal Animal Bite to Human
Animal Bite to another Animal

Date / time: 6/27/24 about 10pm

Address / intersection: 17 w 82nd Terr Kansas City mo 64115

Description / concern: My wife and I were walking our dog east bound on 82nd Terr when we heard a couple of dogs bark and saw them come around a truck parked on the street in front of the house. My wife picked up our dog for safety. The two dogs jumped on her trying to get at our dog. We yelled to the owners in the front yard to come get their dogs. I grabbed one of the dogs to pull off when the other jumped up and knocked my wife the ground. She was bitten in the face and lost grip on our dog. At that point both dogs had hold of our little dog. The owner appeared. I fought off the other dogs to free ours. The owner held one back while I opened the jaws of the other that still had hold on ours. I was bitten a couple of times but our dog free and to safety. We left to get our dog to the emergency vet and taken care of. She was bleeding from her abdominal area. It was dark and I did not get a look at the owner other than about 5'9" middle build and about 50 or 60.

This report was submitted in the waiting room at the emergency veterinary hospital (along with pictures of our injuries). We thought we were going to lose our dog, Juma. She was 13 years old at the time and just diagnosed with urinary incontinence so we were taking her on an evening stroll to avoid an accident in the bed. She suffered 5 broken ribs, a flail chest and punctured lungs. As she laid in an oxygen tank with a chest wrap on, we signed off on life saving treatment that could cost up to \$10,000. We were not giving up on her! Then we took ourselves to the human ER to tend to our wounds. My husband had bites to his hand, me to the face, along with abrasions and bruises from wrestling with the dogs on the pavement. We both started our rabies shots as well.

This was a violent attack on a dog and 2 people and it took 6 days before an officer came out to even talk to us, let alone the offender. Even though the dogs were past due on their rabies vaccinations, they were never impounded on a bite hold and we were left to get the rest of our rabies boosters on our own. The dogs were not deemed dangerous, just charged with public nuisance. The owner never showed up to court, so now he has warrants. Five months later, the exact same thing happens to a woman walking her dog along the Trolley Track trail. She had a lawyer call KCPP so this time they followed most of the law as outlined in Chapter 14. However, they did not factor in our attack when deeming the dogs "potentially" dangerous and they never followed up with the owner to ensure he purchased the required liability insurance needed to keep a dangerous dog. And I think it was to keep dogs that were adopted from KCPP (which both those dogs were) from returning back to their shelter. Here's where the conflict of interest comes into play. Shelter policy and ideology should not impact how the officers execute enforcement of Chapter 14. Laws that were put in place to ensure residents and their pets are safe and animals are not abused or neglected.

Unfortunately, what I described above is not an isolated incident, but the norm. The worst has already happened, a man has died from a horrific dog attack that was avoidable. This has become a life and death situation, for people and for animals. It is time for a change!

I urge you to vote YES on bringing back animal control to the city!

Thank you for listening.

Sincerely,















