

Dear Dr. Charles Sepers,

We are writing regarding the designation of our dogs as “dangerous animals” under the ordinances of the City of Appleton. While we understand and respect the City’s responsibility to protect public safety, we are not contesting the designation itself. Instead, we respectfully request consideration for reasonable modifications to the requirements as they apply to our specific situation.

Both documented incidents involving our dogs occurred as a result of containment failures rather than intentional aggression. In the first instance, one of our dogs managed to open a gate latch and leave the yard, which resulted in an altercation with another dog. Immediately after this incident, we installed a significantly more secure latch on the gate to prevent any recurrence.

The second incident occurred due to human error when our daughter inadvertently left the back door open and unlocked, and her friend failed to properly secure the gate when leaving. The dogs exited the house and yard and approached another dog and its owner. While there was a brief scuffle, no person or animal was injured.

Outside of these two situations, our dogs have demonstrated consistently social and friendly behavior. We regularly visit the Appleton City Dog Park on French Road, where they interact positively with other dogs and people. Additionally, we volunteer as foster caregivers through Our Pack Animal Rescue and have safely fostered multiple dogs in our home. As part of that process, our dogs were evaluated and approved to live with and help socialize foster animals. At no time have they displayed aggression toward any foster dog or visiting animal.

We fully acknowledge our responsibility as dog owners and have taken corrective steps to ensure proper containment moving forward. Our yard is fully enclosed with a six-foot-high fence. We will be installing a new self-closing gate with a latch that can only be opened by human hands. And, we have reinforced procedures within our household to prevent future containment failures.

With these measures in place, we respectfully request that the City consider allowing our dogs to be present in our **fully fenced backyard without the requirement of being muzzled or on a leash**, provided they remain securely contained within our property. Because the yard is fully enclosed and inaccessible to the public, we believe this modification would maintain public safety while allowing our dogs a reasonable quality of life within our own property.

Additionally, we respectfully request reconsideration of the **liability insurance requirement**. Our dogs will not be permitted outside of our fenced property without full compliance with any applicable regulations. Given that they will remain securely

contained within our property boundaries, we believe the insurance requirement may not be necessary in this circumstance.

We remain fully committed to responsible ownership and to complying with the intent of the City's safety regulations. Our goal is simply to ensure that the requirements placed on our family and our pets are reasonable and appropriate given the safeguards we have put in place.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We appreciate the opportunity to present our request and are happy to provide any additional information if needed.

Sincerely,
The Mickelson Family
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