

## DOGS AND TENNESSEE LAW

### Title 44, Dogs

The owner of a dog (person who regularly harbors, keeps or exercises control over a dog) has a duty to keep their dog **UNDER REASONABLE CONTROL AT ALL TIMES**, and keep it from running at large. The owner breaks the law if their dog goes uncontrolled upon a highway, public road or street. The **OWNER CAN BE HELD LIABLE** regardless of whether the dog has shown any previous aggressive tendencies. The owner is subject to **CIVIL LIABILITY** for any damages suffered by an injured person.

A violation is a misdemeanor **PUNISHABLE BY UP TO \$2,500** or a FELONY if there is <sup>1</sup>serious bodily injury or death.

Source:

<https://www.animallaw.info/statute/tn-dog-consolidated-dog-laws>

<http://www.byrdslaw.com/aop/Tennessee-criminal-law/felonies-misdemeanors/>

<http://www.lexisnexis.com/hottopics/tncode>

<sup>1</sup> "serious bodily injury" is a "bodily injury" that involves: (A) A substantial risk of death; (B) Protracted unconsciousness (C) Extreme physical pain; (D) Protracted or obvious disfigurement; [or] (E) Protracted loss or substantial impairment of a function of a bodily member, organ or mental faculty."