

REFERENCE TITLE: animal bites; owner contact information

State of Arizona  
Senate  
Fifty-seventh Legislature  
First Regular Session  
2025

# SB 1241

Introduced by  
Senator Kavanagh

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 11-1025, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO ANIMAL HANDLING.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Section 11-1025, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
3 read:

4 11-1025. Liability for dog bites; owner information; military  
5 and police work; definitions

6 A. The owner of a dog that bites a person when the person is in or  
7 on a public place or lawfully in or on a private place, including the  
8 property of the owner of the dog, is liable for damages suffered by the  
9 person bitten, regardless of the former viciousness of the dog or the  
10 owner's knowledge of its viciousness.

11 B. A PERSON WHO OWNS OR IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CARE OF A DOG THAT  
12 BITES A PERSON WHEN THE PERSON IS IN OR ON A PUBLIC PLACE OR LAWFULLY IN  
13 OR ON A PRIVATE PLACE, INCLUDING THE PROPERTY OF THE OWNER OF THE DOG,  
14 SHALL PROVIDE THE OWNER'S CONTACT INFORMATION TO THE PERSON WHO SUFFERED  
15 THE DOG BITE.

16 ~~B.~~ C. The breed of a dog may not be considered in findings of  
17 facts or conclusions of law entered by a court, administrative law judge,  
18 hearing officer, arbitrator or other legal decision-maker regarding  
19 whether a dog is aggressive or vicious or has created liability.

20 ~~C.~~ D. This section and section 11-1020 do not allow the bringing  
21 of an action for damages against any governmental agency using a dog in  
22 military or police work if the bite occurred while the dog was defending  
23 itself from a harassing or provoking act or assisting an employee of the  
24 agency in any of the following:

- 25 1. Apprehending or holding a suspect if the employee had a  
26 reasonable suspicion of the suspect's involvement in criminal activity.
- 27 2. Investigating a crime or possible crime.
- 28 3. Executing a warrant.
- 29 4. Defending a peace officer or another person.

30 ~~D.~~ E. Subsection ~~C.~~ D of this section does not apply in any case  
31 in which the victim of the bite was not a party to, nor a participant in,  
32 nor suspected to be a party to or a participant in, the act that prompted  
33 the use of the dog in the military or police work.

34 ~~E.~~ F. Subsection ~~C.~~ D of this section applies only if a  
35 governmental agency using a dog in military or police work has adopted a  
36 written policy on the necessary and appropriate use of a dog for the  
37 police or military work enumerated in subsection ~~C.~~ D of this section.

38 ~~F.~~ G. For the purposes of this section:

- 39 1. "Aggressive" means that a dog has bitten a person or domestic  
40 animal without provocation or has a known history of attacking persons or  
41 domestic animals without provocation.
- 42 2. "Breed" means the actual or perceived breed or mixture of breeds  
43 of a dog.

1           3. "Provocation" means tormenting, attacking or inciting a dog and  
2 includes the standard for determining provocation prescribed in section  
3 11-1027.

4           4. "Vicious" means that a dog has a propensity to attack, to cause  
5 injury to or to otherwise endanger the safety of human beings without  
6 provocation or has been found to have any of these traits after a hearing  
7 before a court of competent jurisdiction or before a hearing officer  
8 pursuant to section 11-1006.