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**TOWN OF WALNUT, MS  
VICIOUS DOG ORDINANCE**

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE CONTROL OF VICIOUS DOGS IN THE CITY LIMITS OF WALNUT, MS.

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN OF WALNUT, COUNTY OF TIPPAH, STATE OF MISSISSIPPI AS FOLLOWS:**

**This Ordinance shall commonly be known as the Vicious Dog Ordinance of the Town of Walnut, Mississippi; and**

**Vicious dog shall refer to any breed of dog listed below or any dog that puts the public or other animals at risk for injury or death, including but not limited to:**

- **Engages in or is trained for animal fighting**
- **Any dog which, when unprovoked, bites a person causing an injury**
- **Severely injures or kills a domestic animal, which may include livestock, while off the owner's property**
- **Has, when unprovoked, chased or approached a person upon the streets, sidewalks, or any public grounds in a menacing fashion or apparent attitude of attack**
- **Aggressively attacks in a manner that causes a person to reasonably believe that the dog posed an imminent threat of serious injury to such person or another person although no such injury occurs; and**

**It shall be unlawful for any person to own, keep or harbor any Pit Bulldog, Rottweiler, Doberman, mixed breed, or any other dog deemed vicious by nature or behavior, unless said dog is safely secured by fence, cage, dog pen or heavy chain and has not previously engaged in the above behaviors; and**

**Any person found in violation of this Ordinance shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be fined, not more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) and/or imprisoned for not more than Sixty (60) days in the Tippah County Jail, at the discretion of the Walnut Municipal Court Judge, for each separate offense; and**

**As authorized by Mississippi Code Title 21. Municipalities § 21-19-9. Animal control, The governing authorities of municipalities shall have the power to prevent or regulate the running at large of animals of all kinds, and to cause such as may be running at large to be impounded and sold to discharge the costs and penalties provided for the violation of such regulations and the expense of impounding and keeping and selling the same; to regulate and provide for the taxing of owners and harborers of dogs, and to destroy dogs running at large, unless such dogs have proper identification indicating that said dogs have been vaccinated for rabies; and**

**Officers of the Walnut Police Department are authorized to protect the public from threat or injury from any vicious dog by whatever means necessary including destruction of said dog; and**

**All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed; and**

**The above Ordinance was first reduced to writing and read and considered by Sections at the regular June 2, 2020, public meeting of the Mayor and Board of Alderman and on motion duly made by Alderman Dollar and seconded by Alderman Nabors for the adoption of said Ordinance, a vote was taken as follows:**

|                        |            |
|------------------------|------------|
| Alderman Pulliam voted | <u>Yes</u> |
| Alderman Nabors voted  | <u>Yes</u> |
| Alderman Winter voted  | <u>Yes</u> |
| Alderman Dollar voted  | <u>Yes</u> |

**Thereupon the Mayor declared the Ordinance duly adopted this the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of June, 2020, and declared same to be full force and effect according to law.**

**This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage, approval, recording and publications as provided by law.**

This the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of June 2020

\_\_\_\_\_  
Vicki J. Skinner  
Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dana Hopkins  
Municipal Clerk