



## Marion County Board of County Commissioners Office of Public Information

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### **MARION COUNTY COMMISSION EXTENDS PUBLIC HEARING FOR DANGEROUS DOG ORDINANCE**

Immediate Release

**Note: Effective Jan. 5, 2010, the extension of the public hearing for the dangerous dog ordinance is rescheduled for the regularly scheduled board meeting on Feb. 2, 2010, at 10 a.m.**

**MARION COUNTY**, Fla. (Dec. 18, 2009) – Marion County Board of County Commissioner held a public hearing today to receive citizen input on the proposed changes to Marion County’s dangerous dog ordinance. Commissioners heard comments and opinions from pet owners, dog breeders, attorneys and other citizens, both in support and opposition to the ordinance. Commissioners made no decision today but unanimously decided to schedule an extension of the hearing for board discussion at the regularly scheduled board meeting on Jan. 19, 2010, at 10 a.m.

At a special board workshop on Nov. 30, commissioners reviewed the proposed changes to the ordinance, which included updating the county’s dangerous dog definition to mirror the state statute. Currently, the Marion County dangerous dog ordinance is stricter than the state statute.

The current county ordinance says that a dog can be declared dangerous if it kills or more than once injures a domestic animal or livestock, while off the owner’s property. In contrast, the new language in the proposed ordinance will require a dog to more than once severely injure or kill a domestic animal or livestock while off the owner’s property to be declared dangerous. This slight change precisely mirrors state law. The proposed changes do not affect the ordinance language referring to dog attacks on humans. Marion County Animal Services leaders also proposed a reduction in the annual dangerous dog registration fee.

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