

lissa.scott

From: lissa.scott [lissa.scott@verizon.net]
Sent: Sunday, December 23, 2007 12:11 PM
To: 'ExtMAGDRL@yahoo.com'
Subject: DOE Topic #43: Beware of Dog Signage

Hi All,

Well folks, apparently it's true that "*Beware of Dog*" signs invite problems for dog owners. I've heard from MAGDRL members that there have been successful lawsuits brought by trespassers who were bitten; that police officers have warned that these signs could result in the dog being confiscated or worse; that insurance agents often warn homeowners that such signs are an invitation to lawsuits; and that savvy breeders warn puppy buyers not to use these signs.

I'm sharing this information as **Dog Owner Topic #43: Beware of Dog Signage**. In researching this issue, I found the following:

Proving Knowledge of a Dog's Vicious Propensities (link)

Warning Sign on Owner's Premises: If an animal owner puts up warning signs (such as "Beware of Dog"), an injured person can use this fact to establish the owner's knowledge of the animal's viciousness.

And

"Beware of" signs that lead to lawsuits (link)

My "Beware of Dog" signs came down years ago after I interviewed an attorney who made a good piece of his living suing on behalf of dog-bite victims. Keeping a dog who is known to be vicious is a far more serious issue than having one who has never been a problem before. Putting up a "Beware of Dog" sign, the attorney said, could arguably be an indication that a dog's owners knew he was a problem..." The author advises that readers replace their "Beware of Dog" sign with one that says only "Dog in Yard."

By the same token, I've seen posts on online [forums](#) (link) stating that if you *don't* have a dog sign posted and someone gets bitten, you can be sued for failing to warn the injured party that a dog is on the premises. Adversely, if someone enters your property and you have a *dog awareness* sign posted, they assume the risk, not you as the dog owner.

For those who may be concerned about this (and I certainly am!) I've found some benignly worded gate/fence signs at the links below:

- "I Watch Here" signs with cropped/natural Great Dane available here: <http://www.iwatchhere.com/Kennel1.htm>
- There are "Dog(s) in Yard" signs here: <http://www.bigdoorproducts.com/colors.html>
- Great Dane Drive (aka a *REALLY* big dog lives here!) and other signs <http://www.bobpazsignshop.com/great-dane-drive-18x4-street-sign-p-1458.html>
- And of course, there are a host of sign vendors on eBay including one with a wooden "[Woof Woof](#)" sign and another with a [Great Dane Zone](#) sign.

As always, thanks for educating yourselves to benefit all dogs and their owners!

Lissa Scott
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MAGDRL web: <http://www.magdrl.org>

MAGDRL events: <http://www.lissa.net/Joya/MAGDRL.htm>

Bloat info: http://www.lissa.net/Joya/Merlot_bloat.htm

Gastropexy info: <http://www.lissa.net/Joya/Lapro-Pexy.htm>

"A dog is the only thing on earth that loves you more than he loves himself." - Josh Billings



From: ExtMAGDRL@yahoogroups.com [mailto:ExtMAGDRL@yahoogroups.com] **On Behalf Of** lissa.scott

Sent: Saturday, December 22, 2007 6:21 PM

To: ExtMAGDRL@yahoogroups.com

Subject: [ExtMAGDRL] NDR: Food for thought

Hi All,

I was catching up on reading and saw something interesting. It seems that in many states and municipalities, having a "Beware of Dog" or "Dog on Duty" sign at your home is an admission that you have a vicious dog, and you will be liable if your dog bites protecting its own property. In those places, it doesn't matter if a person was breaking into your home, was threatening you on your property, or was even attacking your dog. It seems that these signs alone can be used by a perpetrator to bring a lawsuit against the homeowner for housing a vicious dog.

They recommended instead having a "Dane (or other breed) Inside", "Dog On Property", "Be Aware of Dog", or simply a "No Trespassing" sign. That way the homeowner is just informing outsiders of the dog without making it sound like they have a guard dog in their home.

Has anyone else heard this?

Lissa Scott

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