



January 2025 Newsletter

Community Alert: Rogue Dogs in mauka Pa'auilo and Kalōpā

Recent vicious dog attacks and what we can do to help prevent them.

Ruth Bennett
VP, PMKCA

Recently in the mauka Pa'auilo and Kalōpā communities, we have experienced a rising number of attacks by aggressive dogs on livestock and pets, as well as threats to ourselves and our children. The stories we have heard are horrific and heartbreaking.

- Six sheep were killed at the lower end of Ka'apahu Rd. in late October.
- Three goats were killed on Keahua Rd in late October.
- Five sheep were killed, and two sets of unborn twins were lost in mid-November on Ho'o Kahua Rd.
- Three goats were attacked on Ho'o Kahua Rd. in late October, and two died from their injuries.
- Three beloved cats were viciously killed in early October on Ka'apahu Rd.
- Police have reports of an October attack on livestock on Kula Kahiko Rd.
- On Ka'apahu Rd., a cow was injured by a dog to the extent that she had to be put down, aborting a specially bred calf.
- A young goat kid was killed at the top of Kalōpā Mauka Rd.
- Another attack occurred at the top of Kalōpā Mauka Rd. for which we don't have details.

We have become a community on edge. Many residents have reported sightings of roaming dogs. People have encountered aggressive dogs on their walks. Parents have expressed concern for the safety of their young children, and elderly folks are considering their risks as they walk for exercise.

PMKCA has talked to our residents who have experienced these tragic attacks and to long-time ranchers in the area for their insights. We've consulted county officials, the local

police, animal control officers, wildlife biologists managing hunts in forest reserves - whoever might shed some light on this problem and have ideas for solutions.

Where do these dogs come from? The incident reports that police and animal control officers maintain show that most aggressive dogs are lost, abandoned, or escaped hunting dogs. They may have failed to return to their hunter/owners, or they may be abandoned in our communities. They often aren't from the local area, although some may be. They are often trained to hunt pigs, are unsocialized to humans and domesticated animals, and will hunt anything that looks vulnerable.

What are the laws and county resources that residents can look to for help and support? There is legal code regarding dangerous dogs (Hawaii County Code Chapter 4, Section 4.32) empowering the police and animal control officers to capture dangerous dogs and to try to find and prosecute their owners. However, enforcement is difficult for lack of resources needed to locate these dogs or their owners. Victims of these attacks are often left feeling alone in their grief.

What can residents and their neighbors do to protect themselves? Here are some ideas:

- The best protection for livestock is good fencing, but that isn't 100% preventative. Large dogs can jump fences, and our landscapes make secure fencing difficult.
- On small ranches, it might be feasible to install remote sensors that could alert livestock owners to unusual activity at night. Warning lights or sounds could drive off threatening dogs, and remote cameras could photograph the dogs for later prosecution.
- Pets that roam are more vulnerable, so keeping pets indoors, especially at night, will keep them safe.
- Parents of young children must be vigilant, and our kupuna who work outside or walk our roads for exercise should always carry their mobile phones - and a strong walking stick.
- The county code allows the owners whose animals are being attacked, to "neutralize the threat." (Hawaii County Code § 4-4-31(b)).

What can residents do to identify and control loose or aggressive dogs?

- Any resident with vulnerable livestock and pets should share their concerns and ideas with their neighbors for mutual awareness and support.
- The police request that sightings of loose dogs be called in to them, especially when an attack may be likely or has occurred. More reports increase police attention to aggressive dogs.
- Residents should take photos of any stray dogs that are large enough to be aggressive, note their location and behavior. Share photos and information with neighbors and report the incident to the police.

What is PMKCA planning to do, and what can other community organizations do?

- PMKCA is developing a list of aggressive dog sightings and incidents of attacks to assist in controlling dogs and identifying vulnerable areas.
- We also hope to encourage local dog owners to train and socialize their dogs to humans, farm animals, and pets.
- We are working on ways to rapidly inform residents of sightings of stray dogs, imminent or active attacks, or aggressive behavior. We'll have more guidance on this process soon.
- At our Annual Membership Meeting in late January (see below), we plan on making aggressive dogs a major topic for discussion.

If you have stories to tell, suggestions, or want to help with this effort, send an email to us at news.PMKCA@gmail.com. We will follow up with you. Mahalo for giving your attention to this serious issue.

~~~~~ **COMING UP!** ~~~~~

**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Thursday, January 9, 2025, 6 PM**  
**At Denning's house – 44-3220 Kula Kahiko Rd.**

**Annual General Membership Meeting**  
**Tuesday, January 28, 2025, 7 PM**  
**Pa'auilo Hongwanji, 43-1477 Hauola Rd. (Old town Pa'auilo)**

~~~~~

Pa'auilo Mauka Kalōpā Community Association
P.O. Box 408, Pa'auilo, HI 96776
Website: www.pmkca.org
Email: news.PMKCA@gmail.com