



The Hancock Handlebars Bicycle Club with 250 members ride around 100,000 miles in Hancock and Putnam counties every year.

The main concern we have in bicycle safety is being free from any accidents. Dogs are usually man's best friend, but something seems to change a dog's disposition when the man gets on a bicycle. Many dogs love to chase bicycles and are probably not vicious, but bicyclists in years past have suffered broken bones when dogs have gotten tangled within a group of riders or the rider tried to avoid hitting a dog and caused a rider to crash. Some riders in other bike events have been killed in bike-dog incidents. Actually, bicyclists are less concerned about dog bites than they are of the spill a dog can cause.

We hope that it would never have to be necessary to call upon it, but Ohio law holds the dog owner responsible for damages caused by a loose dog. Also, the damages a dog causes are usually excluded in homeowner's insurance coverage, resulting in the dog's owner footing the entire bill for the damages. These damages could run into the thousands of dollars if serious injury or death results to the bicyclist.

The law also provides for a citation to be issued to the dog owner for the failure of the owner to control the animal. The citation is a criminal offense and requires a Court appearance.

Also consider your dog; which could be seriously injured or killed in an incident with a bicycle. A spinning sprocket or wheel with spokes can do nasty things to a dog's face or leg. The best way to avoid unpleasantness for all concerned is to keep your dog(s) under control during the time riders will be passing.

We appreciate your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Don Frommer

President, Hancock Handlebars Bicycle Club