

**CITY OF WEST ALLIS
ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS REVIEW BOARD**

**In the Matter of the
Appeal of Dangerous
Dog Order for Polo
(AARB-36) By:**

Ezequiel Meza

**Premises Location:
5515 W. Rogers St.
West Allis, WI 53219**

**FINDINGS OF FACT AND
CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

On December 10th, 2025, the City of West Allis Police Department issued a Dangerous Dog Order (the “Order”) for the dog Polo owned by Ezequiel Meza pursuant to West Allis Municipal Code § 7.125. Mr. Meza timely appealed the Order through the City’s OpenGov system within the ten-day appeal window mandated by West Allis Municipal Code § 7.125(6).

On January 8, 2026, at 7525 West Greenfield Avenue, West Allis, WI 53214, the City of West Allis Administrative Appeals Review Board held a hearing on the appeal pursuant to Chapter 68 of the Wisconsin Statutes and West Allis Municipal Code § 7.125(6)(b). At the hearing, Assistant City Attorney Allison Childs represented the City. Mr. Meza appeared pro se. The Board submits this report after considering the testimony and evidence presented at the hearing.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Ezequiel Meza and his family live in and own the house located at 5515 W. Rogers Street within the City of West Allis, Wisconsin.
2. Mr. Meza owns a five-year-old husky dog named Polo.
3. The yard at 5515 Rogers Street is fully fenced but currently a portion of the fence is not secured due to ongoing construction on the home.
4. The family has owned Polo since he was a puppy, approximately five years.
5. On December 10th, 2025, Mr. Meza was out of town on vacation, and his father was watching his house and Polo.
6. Mr. Meza's father, Manuel, was doing some work in the garage and Polo got out of the house and yard either through an open garage door or the unsecured portion of the fence.
7. Polo was not wearing a collar at the time.
8. Shortly thereafter, City of West Allis Department of Public Works plow driver Mason Grosz, who was out plowing snow in the area near Rogers Park, was flagged down by a woman walking two small dogs.
9. She advised him that there was a husky (later identified as Polo) following her and her dogs while she walked them.
10. Mr. Grosz got out of his plow truck and tried to corral Polo.
11. When initially unsuccessful, he searched his truck and decided to use his belt as a makeshift collar to try and secure Polo.

12. Mr. Grosz and the woman with the dogs also flagged down Anthony Kodaski to help who was nearby shoveling his driveway at the time.
13. Mr. Grosz and Mr. Kodaski were able to corner Polo near some fencing at Rogers Park and, after initially getting the belt stuck in Polo's mouth, were able to put the belt around Polo's neck to secure him.
14. During this process both Mr. Grosz and Mr. Kodaski grabbed Polo and Polo nipped at their hands.
15. Polo bit both of Mr. Grosz's hands, breaking the skin and drawing blood but not requiring stitches.
16. Polo also bit Mr. Kodaski's hands, causing a bruise and either a scrape or laceration drawing blood but not requiring stitches.
17. Once the belt collar was around Polo he calmed down.
18. Manuel Meza eventually appeared on the scene and took Polo back to Mr. Meza's house.
19. Mr. Grosz reported the incident to his superiors at DPW and they called for an ambulance to respond to the incident.
20. Paramedics cleaned and sterilized the wounds for Mr. Grosz and Mr. Kodaski but neither required further treatment nor transport.
21. At the appeal hearing, Mr. Meza testified that he does not usually put a collar on Polo unless he is taking him for a walk.
22. Mr. Meza regularly takes Polo to Rogers Park and has let him off leash to play fetch.

23. Mr. Meza also testified that Polo has gotten out of the house two or three times before but there have not been any other biting incidents.

24. At the time of the incident Polo's Rabies vaccination had recently expired, but Polo has since received his updated dose of the vaccination.

25. Polo has not had any formal dog training.

26. Mr. Meza at the time of the hearing had not received any request to pay expenses from either Mr. Grosz or Mr. Kodaski but agreed to pay for expenses if asked.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. WAMC 7.125(1) defines a dangerous animal as any of the following:

- When unprovoked, the animal causes injury to a person or domesticated animal
- When unprovoked and off the owner's property, the animal chases a person or domestic animal
- When unprovoked and off the owner's property, the animal attempts to bite, scratch, or injure a person or domestic animal
- The animal acts in a manner that would cause a reasonable owner to know that the animal is a threat to the safety, health, or welfare of the community
- The animal has been declared by another city, village, town, or county to be subject to special conditions under a standard similar to this definition

2. On December 10th, 2025, Polo, unprovoked and while off his owner's property, attempted to bite, scratch, and injure two individuals who were trying to secure him.

3. Their actions were prompted by Polo following a woman and her two small dogs at a public park.
4. Due to the foregoing conclusions of law, Polo meets the criteria for a dangerous dog under WAMC 7.125(1).
5. WAMC 7.125(6)(b) provides that the Board may, after considering the evidence presented, “impose any of the requirements in [WAMC 7.125], stipulate to alternative requirements with the owner that are reasonably related to protect the public, impose an expiration date for a dangerous animal order, or modify an order in conformity with the evidence presented to and accepted by the Board.”

ORDER

After considering the testimony given by Corporal Poklasny of the West Allis Police Department, Kevin Smith of the Southwest Suburban Health Department, Ezequiel Meza, Mason Grosz, and Anthony Kodaski and also considering the incident report authored by Officer Kevyn Mussatti and photos of Mr. Grosz’s wounds submitted by the City, the Board upholds the Dangerous Dog Order, finding that Polo shall be categorized as a dangerous animal, as defined in West Allis Municipal Code § 7.125. As such, the Board orders the following on Polo, **with an expiration date of one year from the date of this Order**, to protect the public:

1. **Collar.** Polo must wear a collar with identification whenever he is outside of the house.
2. **Fencing.** The unsecured portion of the fence around Mr. Meza’s property must be secured withing 30 days of this Order.

3. **Signage.** Within 10 days after service of this Order, the owner of a dangerous animal must display signage in prominent places near all entrances to the person's residence identifying that a dangerous animal is on the property. Such signage shall consist of lettering not less than 2 inches in height warning to beware of animal, or substantially similar language, with symbols sufficient to or warning children of the presence of the dangerous animal.
4. **Expenses.** Mr. Meza shall pay for any expenses arising out of the incident described above, including but not limited to medical expenses for Mr. Grosz and Mr. Kodaski.
5. **Sterilization and Microchip.** Polo must be neutered and microchipped as soon as reasonably practical, but no later than one year from the date of this Order.
6. **Incidents.** Polo may not be involved in any additional biting incidents or calls for service from law enforcement.
7. **License and Registration.** Polo must be licensed with the City of West Allis and registered as a dangerous animal within 10 days of this Order pursuant to WAMC 7.125(3)(d).

If any of the above conditions are not met within the listed timeframes, Polo will permanently be considered a dangerous dog and subject to the mandatory conditions for dangerous animals listed in WAMC 7.125(3) for the rest of his life. Ezequiel Meza may also be subject to liability in the West Allis Municipal Court. If all the above-listed conditions are met in a timely manner, Polo's dangerous dog designation will expire one year after the date of this Order.

This order may be appealed to circuit court within thirty days of the date of the order pursuant to the procedures in Wis. Stat. § 68.13.

Dated this 22 day of January, 2026.

By:  Dan Devine
Mayor Dan Devine

As Chair of the City of West Allis
Administrative Appeals Review Board