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April 27, 2026

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Dr. Anne Pasek, owner of Academy Veterinary Hospital, LLC, located at 3470 S. Knox Court, Englewood, CO 80110. I am writing to respectfully request a variance for the type of perimeter fencing for my veterinary hospital property. While I understand and appreciate the intent of the current requirements for chain link fencing, I am seeking approval to utilize an alternative fencing significantly safer for my patients. There are two reasons for this request.

Our primary concern with the use of chain link fence is our patients' safety. As a veterinary hospital, our facility regularly accommodates a wide range of animals, many of whom may be stressed, reactive, or prone to escape behaviors. Chain-link fencing presents a documented risk in this setting, including the potential for dental fractures or degloving injuries (tearing of skin from bone) when animals attempt to bite the material. Several types of dogs are also adept at using the chain link for foot holds to scale the fencing material and try to escape causing lacerations on their feet or broken bones. Even a modified chain-link fence design with integral vertical plastic panels doesn't provide enough safety resistance to this behavior. The inherent design of the openness between wires and the loose link is the fatal flaw at the core of this issue. The proposed alternative fencing would prevent this risk and provide a significantly safer containment solution for our patients. Please reference the "AVH Letter Regarding Chain Link Fence Hazards" for more information and visual references.

Secondarily, we must address the general safety of the staff and patients from external threats. Based on the unique location of our hospital, our adjacent neighbors are a liquor store, a car wash, a convenience store, and a storage facility across the street. We routinely experience homeless individuals trying to make shelter on our property, leaving use drug paraphernalia, discarded needles, and human waste. We must have a better solution than a climbable chain link fence for our site. We have placed boulders along the exterior of current wood fence along the alleyway to inhibit cars from backing into and damaging the wood fence. We are unique in our site situation in the whole of the county based upon the surrounding businesses, primary road access, and hospital usage.

In summary, the requested fencing variance is necessary to ensure safety and security for our unique usage and site conditions. Granting this approval will not create special privileges inconsistent with the limitations upon other properties in the vicinity. Due to our special circumstances, the request for approval is not of a general nature, but rather a highly specific necessity. The proposed fence type will not negatively impact current neighborhood aesthetics, nor will it be detrimental to the public good in any way. Granting this variance request will not be contrary to the objectives and purposes of the Arapahoe County Comprehensive Plan.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Anne Pasek", is written over a blue oval-shaped scribble.

Anne Pasek, D.V.M, CVA, CVFT  
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## **The Hazards of Chain-Link Gates and Fences for Dogs: Medical Risks and Injury Mechanisms**

Chain-link fencing is widely used in residential, commercial, and veterinary settings due to its affordability, durability, and visibility. However, for dogs that exhibit behaviors such as chewing, pawing, or attempting to escape confinement, chain-link gates and fences present *significant* and often underrecognized safety hazards.

Dogs that interact with these structures inappropriately are at risk for a range of acute traumatic injuries and chronic medical conditions, some of which may result in permanent damage or require extensive veterinary medical intervention.

### **Behavioral Risk Factors**

Certain behaviors increase the likelihood of injury associated with chain-link fencing:

- Barrier frustration or separation anxiety
- Escape-driven behavior
- Territorial reactivity toward stimuli outside the enclosure
- Compulsive chewing or repetitive behaviors
- High-energy or working breeds with strong drive

These behaviors often lead to repeated contact with the fence, particularly at gates, corners, or areas of perceived weakness.

### **Mechanical Hazards of Chain-Link Structures**

Chain-link fencing presents unique physical risks due to:

- Open diamond-shaped metal pattern that can entrap teeth, jaws, or limbs
- Rigid wire edges and junction points capable of cutting or puncturing tissue
- Flexibility under force, which can worsen entrapment injuries
- Gate gaps and hinges that create pinch points

## Common Injury Mechanisms

### 1. Oral and Dental Entrapment

Dogs that bite or chew chain-link may become physically stuck, leading to panic and forceful attempts to disengage.

Resulting injuries include:

- Tooth fractures (especially canines and incisors)
- Tooth avulsion (complete displacement)
- Jaw trauma or temporomandibular joint (TMJ) injury
- Severe gingival lacerations

### 2. Maxillofacial Trauma

Forceful pulling against the fence can result in:

- Soft tissue tearing of lips and gums
- Deep puncture wounds to the muzzle
- Facial swelling and infection
- Exposure of bone or tooth roots

### 3. Limb Entrapment and Orthopedic Injury

Dogs attempting to climb or push through fencing may trap a paw or limb.

Potential outcomes:

- Nail avulsion or toe fractures
- Ligament sprains or ruptures
- Long bone fractures
- Joint dislocations

### 4. Lacerations and Soft Tissue Injury

Sharp wire ends or broken sections can cause:

- Linear or jagged lacerations
- Puncture wounds
- Degloving injuries (separation of skin from underlying tissue)

These injuries are particularly prone to contamination and infection.

## Associated Medical Conditions

Injuries sustained from chain-link fencing frequently lead to secondary medical complications, including:

### Infection and Abscess Formation

- Oral wounds are highly susceptible to bacterial contamination

- Puncture wounds may seal superficially while trapping infection beneath

#### Osteomyelitis

- Infection of bone, particularly following deep oral or limb trauma
- Requires prolonged treatment and may be difficult to resolve

#### Periodontal Disease and Chronic Oral Pain

- Damaged teeth and gums predispose to long-term dental disease
- May result in decreased appetite, behavioral changes, and systemic health impacts

#### Neurologic Injury

- Trauma to facial nerves or limbs may cause:
  - Loss of sensation
  - Motor deficits
  - Chronic neuropathic pain

#### Chronic Lameness

- Resulting from improperly healed fractures or ligament injuries

#### Behavioral Deterioration

- Pain and repeated failed escape attempts can worsen:
  - Anxiety
  - Aggression
  - Compulsive behaviors

#### Severity and Long-Term Consequences

In severe cases, injuries associated with chain-link fencing can lead to:

- Permanent disfigurement
- Loss of teeth or jaw function
- Chronic infection requiring surgical intervention
- Amputation (in extreme limb injuries)
- Reduced quality of life

These outcomes often require advanced veterinary care, including surgery, long-term medication, and rehabilitation.

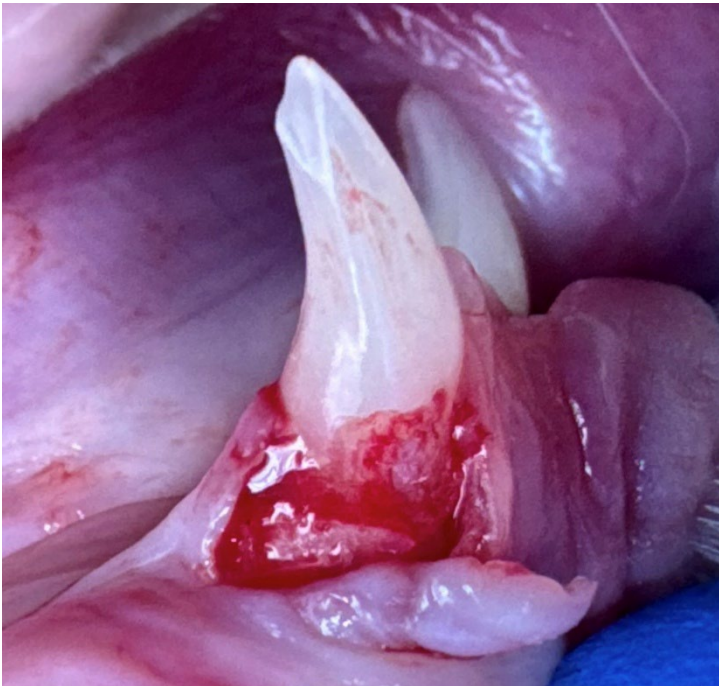
#### **Conclusion**

While chain-link fencing is a common containment solution, in a veterinary hospital setting, it poses serious risks to dogs. The combination of structural design and behavioral drive creates a high-risk scenario for traumatic injury and subsequent medical complications. This is completely avoidable by using a fencing system that is rigid and has significantly smaller gaps preventing the injuries that result from chain-link.

Please see the following images to reference said injuries. Warning: Images are of a graphic nature.



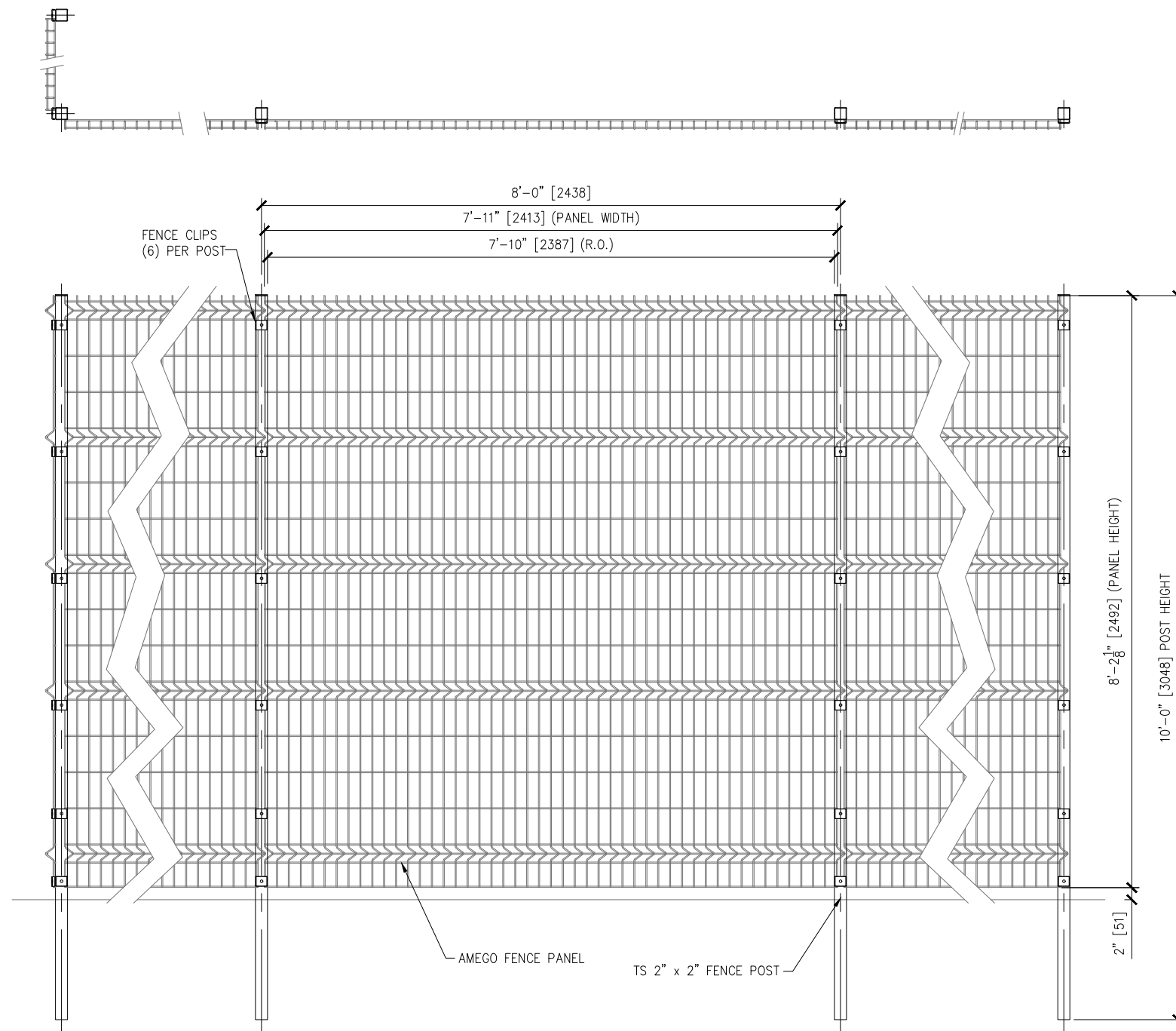
Broken canine tooth.



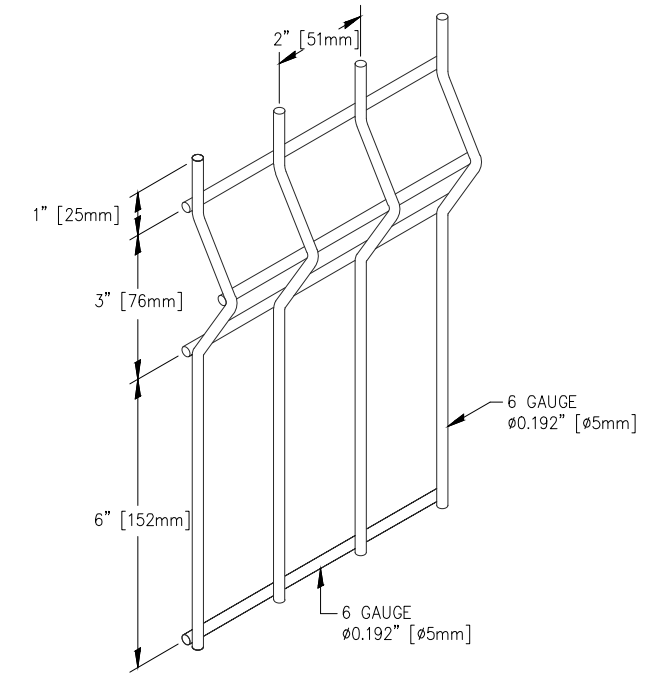
Lacerated gum tissue and damaged canine tooth



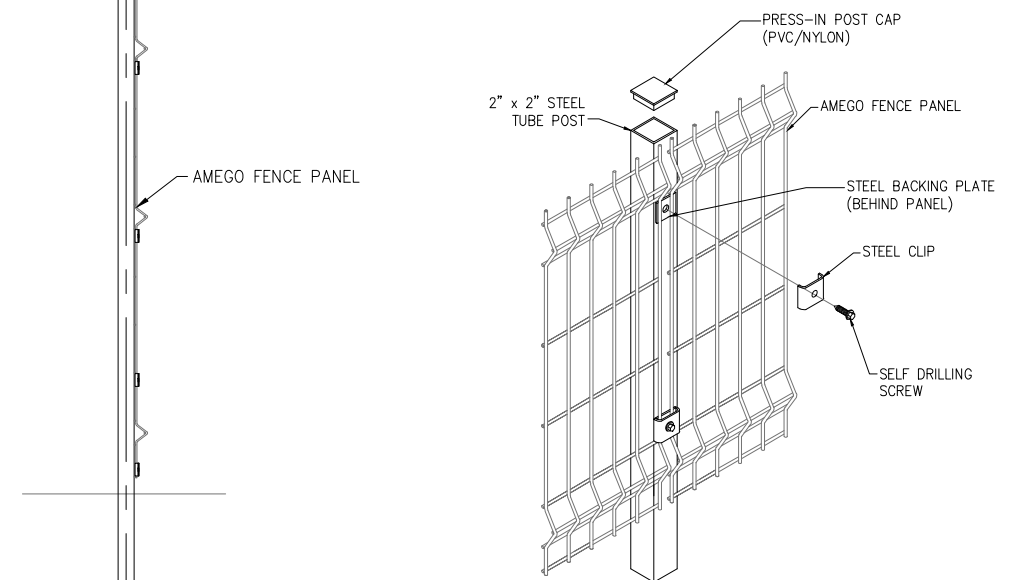
Degloving of the lower mandible



1 TYPICAL 8'-0" TALL AMEGO PARTIAL ELEVATION  
SK1 SCALE: 1/2"=1'-0"



2 AMEGO PANEL ISOMETRIC  
SK1 SCALE: 3"=1'-0"



3 CONNECTION DETAIL ISOMETRIC  
SK1 SCALE: N.T.S.

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DRAWN BY:	AA
CHECKED BY:	KM
SCALE:	AS NOTED
DATE:	3/4/21



TITLE:  
TYPICAL 8'-0" H AMEGO FENCE  
ELEVATION AND DETAILS

SHEET NO:  
SK1





