

9. An annual pit bull license fee of \$100. A pit bull license tag will be issued, and shall be attached to the pit bull by means of a collar or harness. License is not transferable. The annual license fee can be paid at Independence Animal Control. Call 325-7207 to make an appointment.

10. All offspring born of a pit bull must be removed from the City within 12 weeks of birth.

11. The owner shall notify Animal Control within 48 hours if their dog is lost or stolen.

12. The owner shall notify Animal Control within five days if the dog has a litter, dies or the owner moves.



Guidelines to follow when a pit bull is outside a fully-enclosed structure.

1. When away from said structure, a pit bull must be fastened to a leash not more than four feet in length and of sufficient strength to control the pit bull. Also required is a secondary restraint consisting of an additional leash not more than four feet in length attached to a training collar. Both should be securely held by a person at least 18 years of age who is capable of controlling the pit bull. Or, the dog must be in a secure temporary enclosure.



2. A pit bull must have a properly placed metal cage-type or leather muzzle when outside of an enclosed structure.



3. A pit bull cannot be transported in the open bed of a truck or in a vehicle from which it can escape. When a pit bull is being transported it must be in a secure temporary enclosure, which includes a top and bottom permanently attached to the sides except for a “door” for removal of the pit bull. Such enclosure must be of such material, and such door closed and secured in such a manner, that the pit bull cannot exit the enclosure on its own.

“Wrong”



“Right”



What if I don't think my dog is a pit bull?

If a dog is impounded as a pit bull, the owner of the dog can dispute the pit bull classification by filing a written request within seven days at the Animal Shelter, requesting a hearing.

INDEPENDENCE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Pit Bull Regulations

Animal Control Division
City of Independence
875 Vista Drive
Independence, MO
(816) 325-7205



What is the ordinance on pit bull ownership?

It shall be unlawful for any person to own, possess, keep, exercise control over, maintain, harbor, transport, or sell any pit bull within the City.

Penalties for conviction of violating the pit bull ordinance.

Upon conviction, the penalties for violating the pit bull ordinance shall be:

First Offense: A fine of not less than \$300 and not more than \$500 and up to 45 days in jail.

Second Offense: The penalty shall be a fine of not less than \$500 and up to 90 days in jail.

Third or Subsequent Offense: The penalty shall be a fine of \$500, and not less than 45 days, or more than 180 days in jail.

The judge may order the destruction of a pit bull upon a finding of guilt for any offense.

What else should I know?

A pit bull must be maintained in the following manner:

1. The owner of a pit bull must be 18 years of age.
2. The owner of a pit bull shall have such dog permanently identified by having a microchip inserted.
3. The owner of the pit bull shall have the dog spayed or neutered.



4. Spay/Neuter law shall not apply to a show dog, which is used to compete or show. The dog must be registered with American Kennel Club, American Dog Breeders Association or United Kennel Club and meet one of the following

A. Competed in a sanctioned by registry show or competition within last year.

B. Must have earned a title between August 28, 2003 and August 28, 2006

C. Has had or sired offspring born between August 28, 2003 and August 28, 2006 that were sold and registered with American Kennel Club or United Kennel Club

5. The owner must provide proof of continuous rabies vaccination.



6. The owner shall post a conspicuous and clearly legible sign at each possible enclosure entrance where the pit bull is kept. Such sign shall be 12 inches in height and 18 inches wide, with letters not less than two inches tall.



7. The owner of a pit bull shall confine such dog within a fully-enclosed structure or behind a six-foot fence with two feet of barrier buried underground; both enclosures must have only one entrance. A fully-enclosed structure is defined as having four walls with a top and bottom of sufficient strength that the dog cannot escape. All entrances must be locked with either a key or combination lock.



8. The owner must provide yearly proof of \$300,000 of continuous liability insurance.