



Eaton Police Division

Pit Bull Information Sheet



Ohio law change for Pit Bulls

On February 21, 2012 Ohio Governor John Kasich signed a bill that changed the laws of the State of Ohio in regards to Pit Bulls. The bill stated that Ohio shall no longer automatically label Pit Bulls as a vicious dog. This is great news for pit bulls owners and they will no longer be labeled simply because of their breed. Pit Bulls are now just like every other dog and must meet certain criteria before they're labeled vicious or dangerous.

What laws do Pit Bull owners need to follow?

Pit Bull owners need to follow all animal care and control laws that apply to all breeds of dogs.

What is a pit bull?

Ohio Revised Code states that Dog Wardens are the only authorities that can legally designate whether a dog is a pit bull-type dog. Breeds of dogs that fall under the classification of "pit bull" in Ohio include (but are not limited to):

- American Pit Bull Terrier
- American Staffordshire Terrier
- Staffordshire Bull Terrier
- Any other purebred or mixed breed dog whose appearance (looks or physical characteristics) are predominantly like the list of breeds above (or a combination of breeds from the above list)

What qualifies a dog to be a nuisance, dangerous, or vicious dog?

Pit Bulls are no longer automatically deemed to be vicious simply based on their breed.

The State of Ohio has removed breed specific language and created the following three categories for problem dogs:

- **Nuisance dog**- without provocation and while off the premises of its owner has chased or approached a person in either a menacing fashion or an apparent attitude of attack or has attempted to bite or otherwise endanger any person
- **Dangerous dog**- without provocation, has caused injury, other than killing or serious injury to any person; has killed another dog; or has been the subject of a third or subsequent violation of a prohibition regarding general confinement or control of dogs
- **Vicious dog**- without provocation, has killed or caused serious injury to any person and repeals the automatic inclusion of a pit bull dog as a vicious dog.

Do I need insurance for my Pit Bull-type dog?

Ohio law no longer requires Pit Bull owners to carry liability insurance. Only owners of dogs who have been deemed to be dangerous or vicious are required to carry liability insurance.

What if one of the laws stated above are violated?

Please keep in mind that the Eaton Police Division can take action on any of the primary animal control and care laws that apply to all animals. For a complete list of animal laws in the City of Eaton refer to section 505 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Eaton, or click the link below:

<http://www.conwaygreene.com/Eaton/lpext.dll?f=templates&fn=main-h.htm&2.0>

