



Requirements for Keeping Pit Bulls and Other Restricted Breeds of Dogs

On October 24, 2005, The Aurora City Council passed an ordinance ([View Ordinance](#)) prohibiting the following breeds of dogs and/or any dog exhibiting distinguishing characteristics that substantially conform to the standards for any of these breeds:

American Pit Bull Terrier	American Staffordshire Terrier	Staffordshire Bull Terrier
American Bulldog	Canary Dog (Presa Canario)	Cane Corso
Dogo Argentino	Fila Brasileiro (Brazilian Mastiff)	Presa Mallorquin
Tosa (Tosa Inu)		

Restricted Breed Evaluation: Beginning December 1st, 2005, dogs of questionable-breeding may be brought to the Animal Shelter to be evaluated by staff between 10 am and 2 pm Monday through Friday. The evaluation fee is \$25. If staff determines the dog's physical characteristics closely match those of a Restricted Breed, owners must meet the following requirements and obtain a Restricted Breed License for the animal or permanently remove their dog from the City. The \$25 evaluation fee may be applied toward the Restricted Breed License. A certificate approving residency without special licensing requirements for the animal will be provided to owners of those dogs evaluated and determined not to be included in the prohibition.

Ordinance Sec. 14-75 banning the above listed breeds/breed-mixes becomes effective November 26, 2005. To allow owners an opportunity to keep pets already in Aurora, City Council included a grandfather clause with a list of requirements for obtaining a Restricted Breed License. Owners have until January 31, 2006 to obtain this special license.

The Animal Care Division will begin issuing Restricted Breed Licenses on Dec. 1, 2005. Enforcement of the ban begins on February 1, 2006.

Owners of Restricted Breeds are encouraged and advised to take this opportunity to complete requirements for the Restricted Breed License and register their dogs:

Between now and December 1st, 2005, compile proof of the following:

- Owners must be 21 years-of-age or older (Acceptable documents for proof of age include a valid)
- Current address (Acceptable documents for proof of residency include a current utility bill, lease agreement, driver's license, passport, military or government ID)
- Rabies vaccination (Copy of a current rabies certificate from a licensed veterinarian)

- Spay or Neuter (a receipt from a licensed veterinarian or as documented on the dog's rabies certificate)
- Implanted microchip identification number and registration with the national database for the chip (Registration paperwork with the national database)
- Obtain a muzzle that, when fitted and fastened over the snout/mouth/head, prevents the dog from biting a person or another animal, but does not interfere with its vision or respiration. The muzzle should allow room for the dog to easily breath and pant. Bring the muzzle with you when applying for the Restricted Breed License.
- Leash (no longer than 4 feet in length; no extension leashes allowed). Leashes may not be attached to inanimate objects (trees, poles, buildings, vehicles, etc). No one younger than 21 years of age may walk a Restricted Breed of dog. Bring the leash with you to registration.
- Homeowner's or Renter's Insurance (Copy of a current policy including \$100,000 liability coverage for any damage or injury caused by a Restricted Breed of dog).
- Construct a Secure Pen to contain the dog when it is unsupervised in the backyard. Minimum requirements: 5 feet x 10 feet per animal, six-sides including a securely attached top and bottom, with a keyed or combination lock on the gate. The pen must include protection from the elements. Note: If the pen is larger than 120 sq. feet (10' x 12'), the City requires a permit for construction. Enclosures smaller than 120 sq. feet do not require a building permit. (Where covenants or association regulations prohibit outdoor pens, or for owners with 6-foot privacy fences in good condition who NEVER allow their dogs in the backyard unsupervised, the Secure Pen requirement may be waived, but all other restrictions apply. Backyard supervision must be by someone 21 years of age or older)
- Begin saving for the \$200 annual Restricted Breed License fee.

Between December 1, 2005 and January 31, 2006:

- Bring proof of the above listed items to the Animal Care Division Licensing Clerk located at the Aurora Animal Shelter, 15750 E. 32nd Ave, Aurora, CO 80011. (303-326-8291)
Office hours: Monday thru Friday: 9:30 am to 6:30 pm, Saturday: 10 am to 4 pm.
- Pay the \$200 annual Restricted Breed License fee (includes a Temporary Restricted Breed License tag and two warning signs. One sign must be posted at the front entry of the residence and the other must be attached to the front gate of the Secure Pen (if no pen is required, the second sign must be attached to the fence gate leading into the backyard) Additional or replacement warning signs are available for \$10 each.
- Schedule an inspection of the six-sided, locked, Secure Pen (if applicable) and installation of the two warning signs. **Note:** Only two inspections will be conducted to approve a Secure Pen and installation of the two warning signs. Failure to pass inspection may result in a summons and required appearance before the Aurora Municipal Court.
- When the Secure Pen and sign installation passes inspection, the Temporary license tag will be replaced with a permanent Restricted Breed License tag. This license must be renewed annually. Replacement of worn, damaged or lost tags furnished upon request.
- Failure to obtain a Restricted Breed license before January 31st, 2006 or violation of any of the above requirements may result in forfeiture of the license and place your animal in jeopardy.