

Chapter 6.16

PIT BULL DOGS

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6.16.010 Purpose.

This chapter is intended to utilize the authority and powers of the city, a home rule municipality, in order to secure for the citizens of this city, the protection of their health, safety and welfare. It is intended to be applicable to dogs which are commonly referred to as "pit bulls" and which are defined herein. This chapter is designed to regulate these dogs and to ensure responsible handling by their owners through registration, confinement and liability insurance. The unique history, nature and characteristics of pit bulls have been determined to require the special regulations and provisions contained within this chapter which the city council finds reasonable and necessary. (Prior code § 5-39)

6.16.020 Definition of pit bull.

A. The term "pit bull" as used within this chapter shall refer to any dog which exhibits those distinguishing characteristics which:

1. Substantially conform to the standards established by the American Kennel Club for American Staffordshire Terriers or Staffordshire Bull Terriers; or

2. Substantially conform to the standards established by the United Kennel Club for American Pit Bull Terriers.

B. The standards of the American Kennel Club and the United Kennel Club referred to in subsection A of this section are attached to the ordinance

codified in this chapter as "Exhibit A" and shall remain on file with the East Chicago animal control department. (Prior code § 5-40)

6.16.030 Liability insurance required to be maintained by owners of pit bulls.

In order to protect the public from the severe harm and injury which is likely to result from a pit bull attack, every owner of a pit bull shall at all times that he/she owns the dog, maintain in full force and effect a liability insurance policy of one million dollars. (Prior code § 5-41)

6.16.040 Confinement of pit bulls.

A. Because of the pit bull's inbred propensity to attack other animals, and because of the danger posed to humans and animals alike by a pit bull when running loose or while running together in a pack situation, pit bulls must at all times be securely confined indoors, or confined in a securely and totally enclosed or locked pen, with either a top or with sides six feet high.

B. At any time that a pit bull is not confined as required in subsection A of this section, the dog shall be muzzled in such a manner as to prevent it from biting or injuring any person or animal, and kept on a leash with the owner or custodian in attendance.

C. An exception to this section is provided for any pit bull in attendance at, and participating in, any lawful dog show, contest or exhibition sponsored by a dog club, association, society or similar organization.

D. An exception to this section is provided for any pit bull when the dog is actually engaged in the sport of hunting in authorized areas and supervised by a competent person. (Prior code § 5-42)

6.16.050 Registration of pit bulls.

A. In order to assure that owners of pit bulls are aware of the full requirements of this chapter, and to assure compliance therewith, every owner of a pit bull shall register the dog with the city controller's office. The registration shall include the following: name, address and telephone number of the dog's

owner, the address where the dog is harbored, if different from the owner's address; a complete identification of the dog including the dog's sex, color, and any other distinguishing physical characteristics; proof of rabies vaccination; proof of the liability insurance required pursuant to this chapter; and a signed affidavit indicating the owner's knowledge of, agreement to abide by, the requirements of this chapter.

B. Newly acquired pit bulls shall be registered with the city controller's office no later than seventy-two hours after acquisition. (Prior code § 5-43)

6.16.060 Enforcement.

It shall be the duty and responsibility of all law enforcement officers to enforce the provisions of this chapter. (Prior code § 5-44)

6.16.070 Violation—Penalty.

Any person, firm or corporation violating any provision of this chapter shall be fined not less than ten dollars for each offense; and a separate offense shall be deemed committed on each day during or on which a violation occurs or continues. (Prior code § 5-45)