

Sample Email Letter to Resident Relations Person

Subject: Pit Bull Dog Residing at Breed/Weight Restricted Property

Dear Resident Relations Person:

I have rented apartment #C in (City) at your (property name) property for more than three years. When I first toured the property, I specifically asked the manager at the time, (name), whether there were any Pit Bull dogs in the complex, and he said they were prohibited. My son was 7 years old, is now 10, and we have a small (20-lb.) dog, and I was concerned for their safety.

Shortly after we moved in, we observed dogs on the property that were obviously Pit Bulls, one of which continuously jumped at its glass patio door, barking aggressively at passers by. The other was allowed off-leash and was frequently walked directly in front of our apartment. I complained to the manager, who said he had not known that Staffordshire Terriers were Pit Bulls, and that the owners would soon be moving.

The family did not move for another one and a half years. During this time, I was forced to accompany my son whenever he was outside, even just in front of our apartment. This was based not only on my concern over media reports, but also on the CDC's most recent study on dog bites, which revealed that Pit Bulls were responsible for 30% of fatalities, and that those most frequently attacked were boys in my son's age range.

After the two dog owners moved, the manager told me there were no other Pit Bulls and none would be allowed. I have not seen any again on this property until today. This afternoon, I visited a friend who lives in apartment #G, and as I stood at her door, I saw a brindle colored, adult-sized Pit Bull on the balcony above and across from her, outside apartment #H. It was barking with its head through the rails.

I advised my friend, who is Korean, and says she's unfamiliar with our dog breeds, that she should be careful with her twin toddlers around the dog. As we spoke, an adult male in his 20s walked down the stairs next to us with the Pit Bull, which was not on a leash, nor did the man appear to have a leash with him. He carried a tennis ball, obviously to throw for the dog that would then be even further from his immediate control.

I returned to my apartment and contacted our management office. I spoke with the leasing agent, who was very responsive and concerned. She stated that the tenant in unit #H had been spoken to previously about a similar complaint, and had claimed the dog was not a Pit Bull. She said she would contact him again, and would contact the property manager tomorrow, who would not be back in the office until Friday.

While I do appreciate the leasing agent's response, and believe she did all that was in her power at the time, I am contacting you now to formally request that the dog in unit #H be removed immediately. It is clearly over the 25-lb. limit stated in my lease and in your current ads for this property. The dog also matches the description and photos of Pit Bulls on the United Kennel Club website.

<http://www.ukcdogs.com/WebSite.nsf/Breeds/AmericanPitBullTerrier>

It is also my understanding that "pit bull type" dogs are a class of breeds and have been defined by US courts as including: American pit bull terrier, Staffordshire bull terrier, American Staffordshire terrier, bull terrier and any other pure bred or mixed breed dog that is a combination of these dogs. I've provided one link below, but I can provide at least 100 others.

<http://www.animallaw.info/cases/causco820p2d644.htm>

I am not a legal expert, but I am legitimately concerned for the safety of my child, myself, my neighbors and friends. I am sure you realize the serious physical safety and financial liability risk this poses now that you are aware of this situation. I trust you will expedite the removal of any dog in unit #H of this property in (city) that violates the weight and/or breed restrictions that apply to all tenants on this property.

(Your name and contact info)