

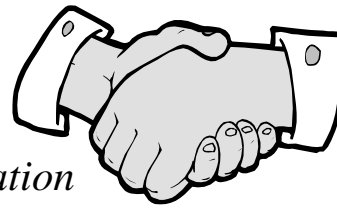
Salina, KS

2005 Pit Bull Ban

Successful Breed-Specific Law Results

In Touch

The City's new monthly source for service information



Volume 2 - Issue 5

Some "Dog Gone" Good Information

Why adopt your next pet from the Salina Animal Shelter?

Since January 1st, 2006, the Salina Animal Shelter has made it easier for you to bring a companion animal into your life! They now do a complete health check on the pet that is to be adopted. This includes a heartworm, fecal and feline leukemia test. Once this is completed (usually the same day), an appointment is made for the spay/neuter surgery the following morning with a local veterinarian. This can be your choice of veterinarian in Salina. Your pet will be implanted with a microchip, vaccinated against rabies and licensed with the City. After the surgery, your pet will be ready to go home. Your veterinarian will answer any health care questions that you may have at this time such as diet, grooming, behavior, etc.

Adoption fees as follows:

Female Dog....	\$130.00
Male Dog.....	115.00
Female Cat.....	110.00
Male Cat.....	95.00






If you choose to adopt a pet that's already spayed or neutered, the adoption fee is \$70.00. This also includes the complete health screen, rabies vaccination, City license and microchip.

Here are a few websites where you can view pets for adoption at the Salina Animal Shelter:

- KSALLINK.com -click on pet adoptions
- PETFINDER.com – Enter your zip code and the type of pet you are looking for
- *Salina Journal* Adopt-A Pet – Bi-weekly
- *Buyers Guide* - once per month
- Wal-Mart Adoption Board in pet department
- Salina Animal Shelter-329 N. Second St. Shelter hours are 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., and 3:00-5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, and Saturday, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon, or phone (785) 826-6535. Stop by any time, you're always welcome.

Dogs Running-at-Large

City ordinance prohibits dogs running-at-large. Animal Shelter staff actively enforces this regulation throughout the City, *including within City parks and cemeteries*. The ordinance specifically provides that "any animal shall be deemed running-at-large when such animal is not:

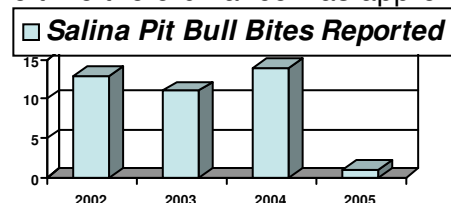
-  Inside a resident structure, secured fence or pen;
-  On a leash held by a person controlling such animal; or
-  Tethered in such a manner as to prevent its crossing outside the premises of the owner onto public property, public right-of-way, or private property owned by any person other than the owner."

There seems to be a common misconception that an animal off-leash, but near its owner within hearing distance, is not considered running-at-large. Based upon the provisions of the City of Salina's ordinances, *that is not the case*. As an alternative to dogs running-at-large in City parks or cemeteries, the Animal Shelter provides a free run exercise area behind the Animal Shelter located at 329 North Second. Dog owners are encouraged to use the facility. It may be a chance for you and your dog to make new friends.



Pit Bulls In Salina

Recent events in Wichita and the Kansas City metropolitan area have called attention to pit bulls and the efforts of various communities to regulate or ban pit bulls. In response to pit bull attacks and community input, the City of Salina was at the forefront of this issue when it began regulating pit bulls in August of 2004. The City's regulations go beyond the standard codes related to dogs by prohibiting possession of pit bulls and regulating pit bulls that were in the community at the time the ordinance was approved.



An informed citizen



is a better citizen!

-OVER-

What are the Rules for Pit Bulls in Salina?

Salina's ordinance provides that:

- ◆ As of April 18, 2005, no new pit bull may be brought in to or remain in the community. Pit bulls within the City limits and properly permitted on the date the ordinance was adopted may remain within the City limits, subject to permitting requirements and City ordinance provisions.
- ◆ During the permitting process, the owner shall make the dog available for digital identification photographs.
- ◆ Pit bull owners must provide proof of public liability insurance in the amount of \$100,000 for bodily injury
- ◆ All pit bulls must be implanted with an identification microchip and must display a sign in a prominent location on their property stating "*Beware of Dog*".
- ◆ All pit bulls must be securely confined indoors or in a secure and locked pen or kennel that meets City location and construction standards.
- ◆ Pit bulls *may not* be kept on a porch or patio or any structure that would allow the dog to exit.
- ◆ Pit bulls *may not* be kept outside a kennel by securing them to objects such as trees, posts.
- ◆ Pit bulls *may* be allowed untethered in a securely fenced rear yard of its owner under immediate adult supervision; however outside the owner's home or kennel, they must be securely leashed.
- ◆ Pit bull dogs must wear a special green collar issued or approved by the City.
- ◆ Pit bull owners must report the death of a permitted pit bull or birth of offspring within 10 days and offspring must be removed from the City within 6 weeks.
- ◆ Ownership of pit bulls may not be transferred to a person within the City limits except an adult in the same household as the owner issued the permit.
- ◆ Any dog, regardless of breed, determined to be a vicious dog by a judge shall be humanely euthanized.
- ◆ Any pit bull found to violate this ordinance shall be impounded and may be subject to revocation of its special permit and removal from the City.

- Animal bites reported have remained constant, but the severity of bites have decreased dramatically.
- There have been 89 court cases involving pit bulls since the ordinance was approved.
- One pit bull has been court ordered to be euthanized
- 45 pit bull special permits have been revoked, and the pit bulls removed from the community.
- 7 pit bulls that were impounded were unclaimed and euthanized.

Why does the City order that pit bulls be removed from the community instead of euthanizing them?

City ordinance grants the Municipal Judge the authority to determine a dog of any breed to be a vicious dog, and vicious dogs must be euthanized. According to the City's ordinance, pit bulls that are not determined to be vicious but have violated the ordinance may no longer remain in the City limits. As a result, pit bull owners can relocate their pit bull to a county or city that does not prohibit pit bulls. Each county or city may choose to address the pit bull issue differently.

Why are pit bulls regulated when other breeds aren't?

After hearing expert testimony in the case of *Hearn v. The City of Overland Park, Kansas*, the Kansas Supreme court made the determination that "**pit bull dogs represent a unique public health hazard not presented by other breeds or mixes of dogs. Pit bull dogs possess both the capacity for extraordinarily savage behavior, and physical capabilities in excess of those possessed by many other breeds of dogs. Moreover, this capacity for uniquely vicious attacks is coupled with an unpredictable nature**". The Supreme Court decision upheld cities' ability to regulate the pit bull breed, and the City of Salina's ordinance is written in keeping with the Supreme Court's ruling.

Has it Made a Difference?

The Salina Animal Shelter monitors a number of indicators related to pit bulls in the community, and it appears that the pit bull ban has made a significant impact.

- The number of registered pit bulls in Salina has decreased by 43%.

2004.....	193
2005.....	169
2006.....	10
- 8 pit bulls were released to the Shelter by the owner
- 12 pit bulls were euthanized at the owner's request.

What should I do if I believe a dog is a pit bull or is violating the ordinance?

Any concerns or suspected ordinance violations can be reported by calling the Animal Shelter at 826-6535. Animal Shelter staff will investigate the issue and proceed accordingly.



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