

Sec. 18-41. Pit bulls and other dangerous animals.

- (a) As used in this section, the term "pit bulldog" is defined to mean:
- (1) The Staffordshire bull terrier breed of dog.
 - (2) The American pit bull terrier breed of dog.
 - (3) The American Staffordshire terrier breed of dog.
 - (4) Any dog which has the appearance and characteristics of being of the breeds of Staffordshire bull terrier, American pit bull terrier, American Staffordshire terrier or a combination of any of these breeds.
- (b) *Keeping of certain animals prohibited.* It shall be unlawful to keep, harbor, own or in any way possess within the corporate limits of the city:
- (1) Any warm-blooded, carnivorous or omnivorous, wild or exotic animal, including but not limited to nonhuman primates, raccoons, skunks, foxes and wild and exotic cats.
 - (2) Any animal having poisonous bites.
 - (3) Any pit bulldog, provided that pit bulldogs registered with the city on the day the ordinance from which this section is derived becomes effective may be kept within the city subject to the standards and requirements set forth in subsection (c) of this section.
- (c) *Keeping of registered pit bulls.* Subsection (b) of this section is not applicable to owners, keepers or harbors of pit bulldogs registered with the city. Keeping, owning or harboring of such dogs is, however, subject to the following conditions:
- (1) *Leash and muzzle.* No person shall permit a registered pit bulldog to go outside its kennel or pen unless such dog is securely leashed with a leash no longer than four feet in length. No person shall permit a pit bulldog to be kept on a chain, rope or other type of leash outside its kennel or pen unless a person is in physical control of the leash. Such dogs may not be leashed to inanimate objects such as trees, posts, buildings, etc. In addition, all pit bulldogs on a leash outside the animal's kennel or pen must be muzzled by a muzzling device sufficient to prevent such dog from biting persons or other animals.
 - (2) *Confinement.* All registered pit bulldogs shall be securely confined indoors or in a securely enclosed and locked pen or kennel, except when leashed and muzzled as provided in subsection (c)(1) of this section. All pens or kennels shall comply with all zoning and building regulations of the city and shall be kept in a clean and sanitary condition.
 - (3) *Confinement indoors.* No pit bulldog may be kept on a porch, patio or in any part of a structure that would allow the dog to exit such building on its own volition.
 - (4) *Signs.* All owners, keepers or harborers of registered pit bulldogs within the city shall display in a prominent place on their premises a sign easily readable by the public using the words "beware of dog." In addition, a similar sign is required to be posted on the kennel or pen of such animal.
 - (5) *Insurance.* All owners, keepers or harborers of registered pit bulldogs must provide proof to the clerk-treasurer of public liability insurance in a single-incident amount of \$50,000.00 for bodily injury to or death of any person or for damage to property owned by any person which may result from the ownership, keeping or maintenance of such animal. Such insurance policy shall provide that no cancellation of the policy will be made unless ten days' written notice is first given to the clerk-treasurer.

- (6) *Registration.* All owners, keepers or harborers of pit bulldogs shall register such dog with the city by filing with the clerk-treasurer two color photographs of the dog clearly showing the color and approximate size of the dog.
- (7) *Reporting requirements.* All owners, keepers or harborers of registered pit bulldogs must, within ten days of all incidents, report the following information in writing to the clerk-treasurer:
 - a. The removal from the city or death of a registered pit bull.
 - b. The birth of offspring of a registered pit bulldog.
 - c. The new address of a registered pit bulldog, should the dog be moved within the city.
 - d. If the registered pit bulldog is sold, the name and address of the new owner.
- (8) *Animals born of registered dogs.* All offspring born of pit bulldogs registered within the city must be removed from the city within six weeks after the birth of such animal.
- (9) *Failure to comply.* It shall be unlawful for the owner, keeper or harborer of a pit bulldog registered with the city to fail to comply with the requirements and conditions set forth in this section.

(Code 1999, § 7-1-9; Ord. No. 1072B, § 1, 8-14-2002)