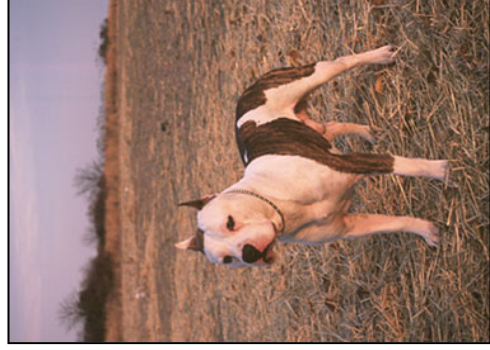


What is a pit bull?

The legislation defines a pit bull as including:

- (a) Pit bull terrier
- (b) Staffordshire bull terrier
- (c) American Staffordshire terrier
- (d) American pit bull terrier
- (e) Any dog that resembles a pit bull terrier or has the physical characteristics of the breeds listed above.

If there is a dispute as to whether a dog is a pit bull terrier it is the owner's responsibility to provide proof that their dog is not a pit bull. A document signed by a member of the College of Veterinarians of Ontario will be considered proof that the dog is indeed a pit bull.



What do I have to do to keep my pit bull?

To own and keep a pit bull after August 29, 2005 you must:



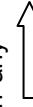
- ensure that your pit bull is licensed by the Municipality of Clarington.
- have your dog leashed and muzzled when in public (maximum leash length is 1.8m). The dog must be walked by someone capable of ensuring the dog is under control and that all requirements of the legislation are met.
- have your dog spayed or neutered by October 28, 2005. We recommend that you book ahead as the veterinary clinics may be busy. Note, there are exceptions for dogs that are too young or in poor health, as determined in writing by your veterinarian.

Does this mean I can't own a pit bull? Do I have to put my pit bull down?

If you follow the rules as set out in the legislation you may keep your pit bull. However, you must be able to provide proof of the number of pit bulls you owned prior to August 29, 2005.

Allowed up to 3 pit bulls

The legislation restricts owning, breeding and transferring of pit bulls. Provided all legislation rules are met, then the following rules apply.

If on August 29, 2005.....	...then after that date.....
You own 3 or more pit bulls... 	You can continue to own up to 3.
You own 2 pit bulls... 	You may continue to own up to 2.
You own 1 pit bull or you do not own any pit bulls... 	You may own up to 1.

How can I prove I owned a pit bull before the deadline?

In the Municipality of Clarington all dogs and cats need to be licensed.

Purchasing a licence from any one of our points of sale, including the Animal Shelter and the Municipal Administrative Centre, ensures we will have a record of your ownership of your dog.

Be sure to purchase your dog licence!!

Do I have to have my dog tied up all the time?

At home – If outside, the pit bull does not need to be muzzled and on a leash if it is within an enclosed area on the property in a way that can be relied on to prevent the pit bull from breaking out of the property.

In public – At all times the pit bull must be equipped with a muzzle and secured by a leash.

What do I do if someone is harassing me about my dog?

If you do own a pit bull, your first course of action is to ensure that you have complied with all of the necessary restrictions.

This legislation is designed to make all residents safer. Pit bull owners who are subject to harassment that may constitute criminal activity and/or fear for their safety should contact the police.

How old do you need to be to walk a pit bull?

There is no age limit. The dog must be walked by someone capable of maintaining control of the dog and ensuring the rules of the legislation are met.

What is the penalty if I do not comply?

The fine can be up to \$10,000. The court can also order the destruction of any pit bull that poses a threat to the public. Owners whose dogs are impounded may not have their dogs returned unless they are in full compliance with the legislation.

What should I do about dog bites?

Animal bites should be reported to the Animal Shelter. Our staff will direct your call to any other relevant agencies as required.



Further information:

- www.e-laws.gov.on.ca
 - *Public Safety Related to Dogs Statute Law Amendment Act, 2005*
 - *Dog Owners' Liability Act (DOLA)*
 - DOLA Regulations available on: e-laws
 - *Animals for Research Act*
- www.clarington.net



Clarington
Leading the Way



PIT BULL RESTRICTIONS

The *Public Safety Related to Dogs Statute Law Amendment Act, 2005* will come into affect on August 29, 2005.

The principle of the Act is to increase public safety in relation to dogs, including pit bulls.



For further information respecting the legislation, you are encouraged to visit our website at www.clarington.net.

Or contact: Clarington Animal Shelter
33 Lake Road
Bowmanville, ON
905-623-7651