



Section 4/400 ♦ Animal Control		
4 / 402	Pit Bull Terriers	8/14/97 Rev 9/15/97
Accreditation Standards		

4 / 402.05 GENERAL

The City Solicitor has determined that the Prince George’s County Code, Subtitle 3, relating to “Animal Control”, more specifically “pit bull terriers” is applicable in the City.

4 / 402.10 DEFINITIONS

County Code, Section 3-101

Pit Bull Terrier:

- Staffordshire Bull Terrier breed of dogs
- American Staffordshire Terrier breed of dogs
- American Pit Bull Terrier breed of dogs
- Dogs which have the appearance of being predominantly of the breed of dogs known as Staffordshire Bull Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier, or American Pit Bull Terrier. Predominantly shall mean that the dog exhibits the physical characteristics of a Pit Bull Terrier more than any other breed of dog.
- Dogs which have been registered at any time as a Pit Bull Terrier.

4 / 402.15 PIT BULL OWNERSHIP

Ownership of a Pit Bull Terrier is prohibited with the following exceptions from County Code, Section 3-185.01.

- Any person owning a Pit Bull Terrier prior to November 1, 1996, may continue to harbor the animal on his premises under the following conditions:
 - ♦ The animal shall be registered by the Administrator of Animal Control, and must at all times wear a tag provided by the Administrator, which will readily identify it as a registered Pit Bull Terrier.
 - ♦ The owner shall pay an annual fee of \$50.00 to the Administrator of Animal Control to maintain such animals and support enforcement.
 - ♦ The owner shall maintain the dog within a building or secure kennel at all times. Whenever the dog is removed from the building or kennel it shall be secured by an unbreakable or unseverable leash and maintained under the control of an adult.

- A person may temporarily hold a Pit Bull Terrier in the County for the purpose of showing the dog in a place of public exhibition, contest, or show sponsored by a dog club, association, or similar organization. The sponsor of the exhibition or show must obtain written permission from the Director and must provide protective measures adequate to prevent the dog from escaping or injuring the public. The dog shall at all times during the transportation to and from the show or exhibition be confined in a secure temporary enclosure.

- Any dog employed or owned by the County or licensed security services and trained to perform official police, correctional, security, fire and/or search and rescue service shall be exempt from the provisions of this act.

4 / 402.20 ENFORCEMENT

Violation of Section 3-185.01 of the County Code is a criminal offense. Any person found in violation of any provision of the section may be fined up to \$1000.00 or may be sentenced to not more than six (6) months of imprisonment.

A Pit Bull that causes injury to or kills a human being or a domestic animal shall be humanely destroyed and the dog’s owner may be fined up to \$1000.00 or may be sentenced to not more than six (6) months of imprisonment.

4 / 402.25 FULL CUSTODY ARREST

Officers shall not issue criminal citations for violations of this act as the penalties exceed those enumerated for such citations. Officers wishing to place criminal charges against an animal’s owner must make a full custody arrest.

4 / 402.30 ASSISTING ANIMAL CONTROL

The Animal Warden has primary responsibility for enforcing animal control laws. When an investigation by the Animal Warden is initiated, an Incident Report must be completed containing the facts and actions taken or to be taken.

Officers will assist the Animal Warden when necessary while conducting such investigations. Officers will serve arrest warrants or criminal summons obtained by the Animal Warden. Officers are not precluded from initiating enforcement action of the Pit Bull law and on occasion, due to the circumstances, may be required to initiate the primary investigation.

NOTE: There are several documents that can be used to determine the date of ownership.

- ◆ Rabies, shot records
- ◆ Veterinarian bills
- ◆ Animal License

4 / 402.35 IMPOUNDING ANIMALS

Officers will contact the Animal Warden to assume possession and to impound the dog. Prince George's County Animal Control will accept responsibility for removal and take possession of the impounded Pit Bulls.

An Incident Report is required when a Pit Bull is impounded and the owner arrested.

END OF ORDER