

OHIO DOG LAWS

Licensing Your Dog

(Ohio Revised Code Section 955.01, 955.21)

All dogs three months of age and older must be licensed annually by January 31. When you acquire a new dog, you must license it immediately. The maximum penalties for violations of this section are a \$150 fine on the first offense, and a \$250 fine and 30 days imprisonment for subsequent offenses.

Displaying a Dog License

(Ohio Revised Code Section 955.10)

The current year's license tag must be kept displayed on a dog's collar or harness at all times. Ohio law permits Animal Control Officers and County Dog Wardens to impound dogs that are not wearing a license, even from the dog owner's yard. The maximum penalty for a violation of this section is a \$150 fine.

Confining Your Dog

(Ohio Revised Code Section 955.22C)

All dogs regardless of age must be kept confined on the premises of the owner, keeper or harbinger at all times. Acceptable methods of confinement include a fence, a tethering device, a dog pen, inside a house or garage, or under adequate supervision. If you are walking your dog off of your property, you must maintain reasonable control over your dog so that it doesn't run away (the best way to do this is to keep the dog on a leash). The maximum penalties for violations of this section are a \$150 fine on the first offense, and a \$250 fine and 30 days imprisonment for subsequent offenses.

Immunizing Your Dog Against Rabies

(Ohio Revised Code Section 955.39)

All dogs in Columbiana County over three months of age must be currently immunized against rabies by a licensed Veterinarian. This is a requirement of the Columbiana County Board of Health. The maximum penalty for a violation of this section is a \$150 fine, and a \$250 fine and 30 days imprisonment for subsequent offenses.

What is a Pit Bull?

Ohio Revised Code Section 955.11 (A)(4)(a)(iii) defines a "breed of dog commonly known as a pit bull" as a vicious dog. For enforcement purposes, the term "a breed of dog commonly known as a pit bull" refers to any of the following:

1. An American Pit Bull Terrier
2. A Staffordshire Bull Terrier
3. An American Staffordshire Terrier
4. An American Bulldog
5. **Any other** pure bred or mixed breed dog whose appearance and physical characteristics is predominately those of any of the dogs listed above, or is a combination of any of the dogs listed above.

Confining Pit Bull Dogs

(Ohio Revised Code Section 955.22D)

Dogs that are a "breed of dog commonly known as a Pit Bull" must be confined on the owner's property by means of a locked fenced yard, a locked dog pen that has a top, or some other locked enclosure that has a top (such as a house). This law applies not only to pure bred American Pit Bull dogs, but also to other pure bred and mixed breed dogs that have similar physical and/or behavioral characteristics. Animal Control Officers make the determination as to whether or not a dog is a "breed of dog commonly known as a Pit Bull." The maximum penalty for a violation of this section on a first offense is a \$1,000 fine and up to six months imprisonment. If the dog seriously injures a person, or this is a second offense of this section, the charge may be filed as a felony.

Insuring Pit Bull Dogs

(Ohio Revised Code Section 955.22E)

Owners of dogs that are a "breed of dog commonly known as a Pit Bull" must maintain at least \$100,000 of liability insurance coverage on these animals. The maximum penalty for a violation of this section is a \$1,000 fine and up to six months imprisonment.