

Pit Bull Dogs Banned (Tennessee)

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By Charles Schrimsher

The Hardeman County Commission unanimously passed a resolution Tuesday night banning the ownership, harboring, or possession of Pit Bulls, including Bull Terriers, Staffordshire Bull Terriers, American Bull Terriers and American Staffordshire Terriers. The resolution also bans the ownership of mixed breeds that have the same appearance and characteristics of the above-mentioned breeds. Persons owning such dogs at the present time may retain possession, provided they comply with all provisions stated within the resolution within 30 days. The law goes into effect immediately.

According to the resolution, persons currently owning pit bulls are exempt, providing they follow strict guidelines that include registering the dog with Animal Control Office and providing two photos of the animal which clearly show its color and approximate size.

Owners must also agree to keep the dog enclosed indoors or in a kennel at all times, and provide \$100,000 worth of liability insurance. In addition, if the dog is out of its cage, it must be on a leash controlled by a responsible person, and must also be muzzled.

Other provisions of the resolution state that any offspring the dog might have must be removed from the county within six weeks. Also, it is illegal to sell the dog to anyone in the county unless they are living on the same property as the animal.

The penalty for not following the provisions of the resolution is a fine of \$25-\$50 per day and is considered a civil offense. Dogs will be subject to seizure and impoundment. A copy of this resolution, along with the requirements and revisions, may be obtained at the Office of Animal Control, 300 East Jackson St., Bolivar, or at the County

Mayor's office in the Courthouse.