



# Update to Denver's Animal Ordinance

Safety, Housing, Education &  
Homelessness Presentation

January 22, 2020

# Proposed breed-specific legislation updates

**To own a pit bull, the owner must register with Denver Animal Protection (DAP) and get their dog a “breed-restricted license.” A license application requires:**

- Name and address where the dog will primarily reside
- Two emergency contacts
- Accurate description of the pit bull
- Annual fee
- Proof the animal was microchipped and received current rabies vaccination

# Proposed breed-specific legislation updates

## **Other conditions of ownership**

- Maximum of two per household
- Must notify DAP within eight hours if the dog escapes or bites
- Must notify DAP within 24 hours if the dog dies or the owner moves

If a dog is on the DAP registry and there are no violations of Chapter 8 in 36 consecutive months, DAP may remove the requirement for a breed-restricted license. The owner would then license their dog under the same requirements as any other dog.

# Other highlights and proposed changes

- DAP is the only agency that can provide a pit bull breed assessment valid in Denver
- DAP may hold, transport and adopt any pit bull. Pit bulls adopted from DAP receive the restricted breed license upon adoption
- Any humane society licensed and registered by the City may hold, transport and adopt any pit bull. A new owner must obtain a restricted breed license from DAP
- DAP is permitted to inspect the owner's premises for safety and health reasons
- After a five-year period, DAP will review the data and report findings and recommendations to City Council

# Frequently asked questions

## **What is the current law in Denver?**

Pit bulls are currently illegal in the City and County of Denver.

## **What if an owner doesn't apply for a breed-restricted license?**

The owner would potentially be subject to administrative and/or criminal penalties depending on the severity of the violation.

## **What if a dog bites another animal or a person?**

The potentially dangerous animal ordinance would apply, as with any other dog that bites.

## **What if there's a violation during the 36-month breed-restricted license period?**

The owner would potentially be subject to administrative and/or criminal penalties depending on the severity of the violation, including but not limited to impacts to the breed-restricted license.