

CENTRAL OHIO ANIMAL LAWS

NOTE: This is our interpretation of the codified ordinances for the municipalities listed. This list was compiled by a layperson (not an attorney). If you have questions or need legal advice, contact a licensed attorney in your jurisdiction.

CITY (within the city limits only)	NOTABLE ANIMAL LAWS
Bexley	Pit bull ban
Dublin	Pit bulls are automatically deemed vicious (and subject to restrictions mirroring the old state law).
Canal Winchester	Pit bulls are automatically deemed vicious (and subject to restrictions mirroring the old state law, including \$100,000 liability insurance).
Columbus	Breed neutral like state law.
Delaware	Breed neutral like state law. No household is permitted to own or board (on premises) more than three dogs that are ten weeks of age or older.
Gahanna	Breed neutral like state law but requires owners of dangerous/vicious animals to pay the Chief of Police \$500 for a permit to own the animal.
Grove City	Breed neutral but bans dogs deemed dangerous or vicious, regardless of breed.
Groveport	Pit bulls are automatically deemed vicious (and subject to restrictions mirroring the old state law, including \$100,000 liability insurance).
Hilliard	Bans dogs deemed dangerous or vicious, regardless of breed. Dangerous or vicious animals defined by: if the animal has bitten or attacked any person off the owner's premises, the animal is vicious or dangerous.
London	Breed neutral like state law.
Marysville	Breed neutral like state law.
Newark	Pit bulls are automatically deemed vicious (and subject to restrictions mirroring the old state law).
New Albany	Pit bulls are automatically deemed vicious (and subject to restrictions mirroring the old state law, including \$100,000 liability insurance). Also states that anyone convicted of a violent felony committed on or after May 22, 2012 cannot own an unspayed or unneutered dog older than 12 weeks of age or any dog that has been determined to be a dangerous dog under ORC Chapter 955 or any substantially equivalent municipal ordinance.
Pataskala	Breed neutral.
Pickerington	Breed neutral like state law. Also states that no person shall feed, harbor, or house a feral cat or cats. Also states that anyone convicted of a violent felony committed on or after May 22, 2012 cannot own an unspayed or unneutered dog older than 12 weeks of age or any dog that has been determined to be a dangerous dog under ORC Chapter 955 or any substantially equivalent municipal ordinance.

Plain City	Breed neutral like state law.
Powell	Pit bulls are automatically deemed vicious (and subject to restrictions mirroring the old state law, including \$100,000 liability insurance).
Reynoldsburg	Pit bull ban
Sunbury	Pit bull ban
Upper Arlington	Pit bulls – automatically vicious with additional restrictions imposed. Also considered vicious: any dog that kills or causes serious physical harm to any person or domestic animal or any dog that inflicts puncture wounds or lacerations from multiple bites during the course of an attack against any person. Limit - no more than 4 total dogs/cats (or combination thereof) and no more than 1 pit bull.
Westerville	Breed neutral.
Whitehall	Follows state law and adds the following definition for vicious dogs: any dog that is owned, harbored or found to be used for the purpose of dog fighting, is trained for the purpose of dog fighting or engages in dog fighting activities as described in Section 505.22; any dog that is tormented, badgered, baited or encouraged to engage in unprovoked attacks upon persons, domestic animals or domesticated dogs or cats; any dog owned, harbored, or trained primarily, or in part, for the purpose of attacking a human being or domestic animal on command; or any dog which attacks or bites another dog, cat or animal peaceably conducting itself in any place in which it may lawfully be present.
Worthington	Breed neutral like state law but bans vicious animals. Any animal determined to be vicious must be removed from the city or humanely destroyed.

State of Ohio Revised Code (after 5/22/2012)

The state of Ohio law is “breed neutral,” meaning that dangerous and vicious dogs are identified by their actions, not their breed. Therefore, after 5/22/2012, Ohio residents no longer have restrictions on pit bull ownership, unless:

- You live in a local municipality that has enacted restrictions or bans on pit bulls. We recommend that you contact your local city attorney or township trustee and/or homeowners association to verify that there are no breed restrictions where you live.
- Your dog, regardless of breed, is declared DANGEROUS (that is, a dog that has caused an injury to a person or killed another dog, or otherwise violated ORC 955.22) or VICIOUS (that is, a dog that has caused serious or fatal injury to a person without provocation). The county dog warden and health commissioner determine whether a dog is dangerous or vicious, but you do have the right to contest and appeal this designation.

