

**NOTICE TO OWNERS OF PIT BULLS WITHIN
THE MUNICIPALITY OF CENTRAL HURON**

PIT BULLS TO BE REGISTERED

Take notice that Ontario Legislation – Bill 132, the *Public Safety Related to Dog Statute Law Amendment Act 2005* will come into force August 29, 2005 (with a 60 day transition period for owners to comply with leashing, muzzling and sterilization requirements).

After that date, individuals (other than pounds and research facilities as defined in the Animal Research Act and owners of ‘grandfathered’ pit bulls) will be prohibited from owning pit bulls. If you are currently an owner of a pit bull dog defined in the legislation as follows:

“Pit bull includes, (a) a pit bull terrier, (b) a Staffordshire bull terrier, (c) an American Staffordshire terrier (d) an American pit bull terrier, (e) a dog that has an appearance and physical characteristics that are substantially similar to those dogs referred to in any of clauses (a) to (d).

YOU MUST REGISTER your pit bull(s) with the Municipal Clerk on or before August 29th, 2005 during regular business hours 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., in addition to all other licensing requirements of the Municipality of Central Huron. Failure to do so will result in the loss of the “grandfathered” status of the particular pit bull under the provincial legislation.

An individual who contravenes any provision of this Act or the regulations or who contravenes an order made under this Act or the regulations is guilty of an offence and liable, on conviction, to a fine of not more than \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term of not more than six months, or both.

For further information, please contact the Municipal Office at (519)482-3997 ext. 230.

NOTIFICATION

**TO: Licensed Pit Bull Dog Owners
August 29, 2005**

REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT'S *DOG OWNERS' LIABILITY ACT (DOLA)* WITH RESPECT TO PIT BULLS

The amendments to the Dog Owners' Liability Act (DOLA) **introduced earlier in 2005 by the Ontario government through Bill 132**, will take effect province-wide on August 29th, 2005. The amendments include broader powers to deal with dangerous dogs in general, as well as a ban on pit bulls and restrictions on existing pit bulls.

The Ontario government has announced that it will allow a 60-day transition period to phase-in the restrictions on pit bulls. It is during this period that pit bull owners will be given time to comply with the requirements set out in the Act and the accompanying Ontario Regulation 157/05, and that municipalities and other enforcement agencies identified in the newly amended Act will prepare to enforce it and the regulations, **as directed by the provincial government.**

The amendments will prohibit anyone from owning, breeding, transferring, importing, fighting or abandoning pit bulls in Ontario. The definition of a pit bull includes: pit bull terrier, Staffordshire bull terrier, American Staffordshire terrier, American pit bull terrier or a dog that has an appearance and physical characteristics that are substantially similar to any of the aforementioned dogs.

For Ontario residents who currently own a pit bull, the new legislation contains a "grandfathering" clause, which will allow existing pit bulls to remain in Ontario provided that the owner can prove that the pit bull was owned by a resident of Ontario on August 29th, 2005 or born in Ontario between August 29th, 2005 and November 26, 2005. Pit bull owners must also comply with the regulations under the Dog Owners' Liability Act by the October 28th, 2005.

Regulations for Restricted "Grandfathered" Pit Bulls:

The provincial regulation under DOLA (Regulation 157/05) stipulate that restricted pit bulls must be leashed and muzzled in public, and spayed or neutered effective **October 28th, 2005**. The onus of proof that a dog is not a pit bull, or that it is a restricted or "grandfathered" pit bull, will lie with the owner of the dog.

Effective **August 29th, 2005**, in a Court proceeding, if a pit bull owner is found to have contravened a provision of the Dog Owners' Liability Act or their dog has bitten, attacked or posed a menace to public safety, a mandatory destruction order will be issued by the Court.

Changes to the Penalties under DOLA include:

\$10,000.00 (maximum) fine and or 6 months in jail (previously \$2000.00 and no jail time)

\$60,000.00 (maximum) fine for corporations (previously no distinction for corporations)

The court may also make restitution orders requiring convicted persons to make compensation to the victims.

Other changes to the Act include prohibiting the ownership of dogs to convicted persons for specified periods of time, increased enforcement powers for a variety of enforcement agencies and more.

To view the amended Dog Owners' Liability Act, go to:

http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/DBLaws/Statutes/English/90d16_e.htm

To view Ontario Regulation 157/05, go to:

http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/DBLaws/Regs/English/050157_e.htm

For general information on the new Act and regulations, visit the Ministry of the Attorney General's web site at:

<http://www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca/english/about/pubs/dola-pubsfty/dola-pubsfty.asp>

At this time, there are no licensing requirements under DOLA for pit bull dogs.

Any new licensing information that is approved by Municipal Council with respect to Pit Bull Dog Owners will be conveyed directly to you at the address provided at the time you licensed your existing pit bull. It will be the Pit Bull Dog Owner's responsibility to comply with any future changes.

Contact: if you require minor clarification of the details, please contact The Municipal office at (519)482-3997, ext. 230.

Please note that specific questions about DOLA cannot be answered by the Municipal staff as this is within Provincial jurisdiction. The general contact line for the Ministry of Attorney General is (416)326-2220, website address is <http://www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca/english/about/ag/>

ONTARIO'S PIT BULL BAN

- The ban takes effect Monday, August 29, 2005
- The ban makes it illegal to own, breed, transfer, abandon or import pit bulls.
- Pit bulls owned before Aug. 29, 2005 or born in the next 90 days, are “restricted” and can stay in Ontario, but must be leashed and muzzled in public and sterilized. The law includes a 60-day grace period-ending October 28, 2005 – to allow owners to comply.
- Puppies born after November 27, 2005 will be considered illegal, and must be shipped out of the province, sent to a research facility or destroyed.
- Those who violate the ban can have their pit bulls seized and destroyed. The owner of a dog deemed dangerous, regardless of breed, is subject to fines of \$10,000.00 and a jail term of up to six months.