

CITY OF IONIA
Ordinance No. 491

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 608 - ANIMALS - OF PART SIX –
GENERAL OFFENSES CODE OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF
IONIA**

THE CITY OF IONIA HEREBY ORDAINS:

PART SIX – GENERAL OFFENSES CODE

Chapter 608 – Animals

608.01 CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.

Section 608.01 shall be revised to read as follows:

No person shall ~~treat with cruelty~~ ~~cruelly treat~~ or abuse any animal or bird.

608.02 POISONING ANIMALS.

Section 608.02 shall be revised to read as follows:

No person ~~shall place or otherwise put~~ ~~shall throw or deposit~~ any poisonous substance on any exposed public or private place where it endangers, or is likely to endanger, any domesticated animal or bird.

608.03 BIRDS AND BIRDS' NESTS.

No person, except a public officer acting in his or her official capacity, shall molest, injure, kill or capture any wild bird, or molest or disturb any wild bird's nest or the contents thereof.

608.04 DOMESTIC ANIMALS AND FOWL.

No person shall keep or house any animals or domestic fowl within the City except dogs, cats, birds, ~~fowl~~ or other animals commonly classified as pets.

608.05 DOGS.

Section 608.05 shall be revised to read as follows:

- (a) Definitions. The following terms, when used in this chapter, shall have the meanings set forth in this section:

Animal means any one (1) or more of a kingdom of living beings (except humans) differing from plants in capacity for spontaneous movement and rapid motor response to stimulation.

Animal control officer means any person designated by the City to enforce the provisions of this chapter, including but not limited to, Ionia County animal control officers.

City means the City of Ionia and/or its duly elected City Council.

Cruelty means the infliction of suffering or harm upon non-human animals, for purposes other than self-defense.

Dog shall include the male and female of the dog family or genus canis.

Domesticated animal means any of the various animals domesticated by humans so as to live and breed in a tame condition.

Exotic animals means, generally, the species of animals which are not native to the State or the United States and/or introduced from another country.

Hybrid(s) means any animal which is the offspring of two (2) different varieties or species.

Owner or possessor means any adult person who either has right of property in any animal, or who has an animal in his care or custody, or who knowingly permits an animal to remain on or about any premises occupied or controlled by him.

Ownership when applied to proprietorship of a dog, shall include every person having a right of property in such dog, every person who keeps or harbors such dog or has it in his or her care, and every person who permits such dog to remain in or about any premises occupied by him or her.

Person means an adult human being aged 18 years or over.

Pit bull or pit bull terrier means any dog which exhibits those phenotypical characteristics which:

- (1) Substantially conform to the breed standards established by the American Kennel Club for American Staffordshire Terriers or Staffordshire Bull Terriers.
- (2) Substantially conform to the breed standards established by the United Kennel Club for American Pit Bull Terriers. The standards of the United Kennel Club referred to herein as "Appendix A", shall remain on file with the City Clerk. Technical deficiencies in the dog's conformance to the standards of this definition shall not be construed to indicate that the subject dog is not a pit bull terrier under this Chapter.

Poisonous means a substance which, through its chemical action, usually kills, injures or substantially impairs an organism.

Possess or maintain means the act or ability of having or exerting control and influence over an animal regulated herein, without regard to ownership.

Reasonable control means keeping a dog on a suitable leash or under the oral control of the owner or custodian or some other person with the permission of the owner or custodian in all cases other than while upon private property, unless the dog is confined in a closed automobile or shipping receptacle.

Running at large in the City is defined as not being under the reasonable control of the animal's owner or person in charge or not having a leash attached to the animal.

Unconfined means running at large or uncontained or unrestricted by leash.

Vicious means characterized by aggressive, hostile behavior.

~~(1) The term "dog" shall include the male and female of the dog family or genus canis, unless the context indicates or requires a different construction.~~

~~(2) The word "ownership," when applied to the proprietorship of a dog, shall include every person having a right of property in such dog, every person who keeps or harbors such dog or has it in his or her care, and every person who permits such dog to remain in or about any premises occupied by him or her.~~

~~(3) "Reasonable control" shall mean keeping a dog on a suitable leash or under the oral control of the owner or custodian or some other person with the permission of the owner or custodian in all cases other than while upon private property, unless the dog is confined in a closed automobile or shipping receptacle.~~

(b) Running at Large; Barking or Howling. No person owning any dog or having any dog under his or her custody, shall permit such dog to be in violation of any of the following restrictions:

- (1) No person shall permit any vicious dog of which he or she is the owner to be unconfined unless securely muzzled and led by a leash. Any dog shall be deemed vicious which has bitten a person or domestic animal without molestation, or which, by its actions, gives indication that it is liable to bite any person or domestic animal without molestation.
- (2) No person who is the owner of any female dog shall permit or allow such female dog to go beyond the premises of such owner when said dog is in heat.
- (3) No person who is the owner of any dog four months of age or older shall permit it to be unconfined unless under the reasonable control of some person.
- (4) No person who is the owner of any dog required to be licensed shall permit it to be unconfined at any time unless licensed as required by law and unless wearing its license tag and evidence of rabies immunization.
- (5) No person shall own any dog which, by loud or frequent or habitual barking, yelping or howling, shall cause annoyance to the people in the neighborhood.

(c) Seizure and Impoundment. Any dog found at large in the City which is doing any of the acts enumerated in subsection (b) hereof may be seized and impounded by any public safety police or animal control officer of the City and delivered to the Ionia County Animal Shelter.

(d) Rabies Prevention. Any person who shall have in his or her possession a dog which has contracted rabies, which has been subjected to the same, which is suspected of having rabies or which has bitten any person, shall, upon demand of any public safety or animal control officer ~~the Dog Warden, the Police Department or the Health Officer,~~ produce and surrender ~~up~~ such dog to be held for observation.

(e) Exposure to Rabies; Notice. It shall be the duty of any person owning or harboring a dog which has been attacked or bitten by another dog or another animal showing the symptoms of rabies to immediately to notify the ~~Police~~ Public Safety Department or Animal Control Department of his or her possession of such dog.

(f) It shall be the duty of persons owning or possessing a dog to pick up the dog's excrement on public property or on private property not under his or her control or ownership and properly dispose of it.

~~(f) Impounding and Release. Any dog impounded for observation for rabies shall be held until released by the Health Officer or otherwise disposed of. Any dog impounded for having bitten any person shall be held for not less than five days, and in case any complaint shall have been made before any court asking that said dog be killed or confined, then said dog shall be confined until the case is finally disposed of.~~

~~(g) Release From Pound. No dog shall be released from the pound or other place of detention until the owner or custodian of the said dog shall pay to the City Clerk an amount to be determined by resolution of Council. Except as provided in subsection (f) hereof, any dog unclaimed for three days after the said dog is seized shall be offered for sale by the pound master, if there is one, and if not, by the Chief of Police, and shall be sold to the highest bidder. Dogs eligible for release after being held under subsection (f) hereof shall be sold if unclaimed. No dog shall be sold for a price less than the charges which shall have accrued against said dog. The Chief of Police may, in his or her discretion, postpone such offering for sale to any subsequent date which he or she may designate. If any dog, after being offered for sale as above provided for, shall not be sold within twenty-four hours of such offer, the said dog may be killed in a humane manner.~~

~~(h)~~ (g) Violation. A violation of this section shall be considered a civil infraction for which fines are established in Section [202.99](#) of these Codified Ordinances.

608.06 CATS.

Section 608.06 shall be revised to read as follows:

(a) Nuisance. No person shall create a nuisance by way of noise, odor or otherwise in the keeping of any cat.

(b) Impounding. Any ~~police~~ public safety or animal control officer is authorized to impound any cat found running at large in the City and deliver the cat to the Ionia County Animal Shelter.

~~(c) Release. Before any City-impounded cat is released to its owner or person in charge, such cat shall be vaccinated for distemper. Rabies shot shall also be administered if the cat has not had rabies shots or the rabies shots have expired, unless there is a tag attached indicating that rabies shots have been administered. Any owner or person in charge claiming said cat shall reimburse the City for any costs incurred for the administering of rabies shots by a veterinarian.~~

~~(d) Disposition. Any cat obtained by an animal control officer shall be kept for a period of four working days after its acquisition. If the cat has a collar, license or evidence of ownership, the animal control officer shall notify the owner in writing, and disposition of the animal shall not be~~

~~made for seven days from the date of mailing said notice. At the end of seven days, the animal may be disposed of by sale or by killing it in a humane manner. The animal control officer shall maintain a record on each identifiable cat acquired and under what circumstances. The record shall also indicate the date the notice was sent to the animal's owner and subsequent disposition. This section shall not apply to animals that are sick or injured, to the extent that the holding period would cause undue suffering, or to animals whose owners request immediate disposal.~~

~~— (e) Exemptions. The provisions of this section shall not apply to cats being kept by a veterinarian, in a veterinary hospital, in a commercial pet shop, or in an institution carrying on experiments with cats.~~

~~— (f) Fees. The fees for impounding a cat shall be set by Council by resolution from time to time.~~

608.07 PIT BULL TERRIERS AND EXOTIC ANIMALS – PURPOSE.

A new Section 608.07 shall be added to Chapter 608 and be entitled Pit Bull Terriers and Exotic Animals – Purpose and read as follows:

The purposes of Sections 608.07 through 608.14 are declared to be as follows:

- (a) To identify and enumerate certain animals which, by their nature, are sufficiently dangerous, undesirable or unsuitable for incorporation into the residential, agricultural or commercial life of this community.
- (b) To impose prohibitory measures to discourage and ban the possession and maintenance of animals considered as exotic and not easily domesticated.
- (c) To describe and classify the breeds of dog generally known as pit bulls or pit bull terriers which are determined to pose an unacceptable risk to the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the community.
- (d) To provide for restrictions on the care and custody of existing licensed pit bull terrier dogs on the owner or possessors thereof.
- (e) To impose a ban on the prospective possession and maintenance of those breeds of pit bull terrier dogs so classified.
- (f) To establish guidelines and procedures to be utilized by public safety and animal control personnel in implementing this Chapter.
- (g) To provide for penalties and sanctions for violations thereof.

608.08 FINDINGS.

A new Section 608.08 shall be added to Chapter 608 and be entitled Findings and read as follows:

- (a) With the increasing urbanization and population density of the City, the residents of the City must be protected from the attack and threat of injury or disease from certain exotic animals possessed or maintained as domestic animals.
- (b) This Chapter is enacted following the passage of Act 381 of the Public Acts of 1988 (MCL 750.49, MSA 28.244) by the Michigan legislature which provides for substantial penalties to be imposed against persons who promote the possession or use of dogs bred for fighting or baiting.
- (c) This Chapter is enacted following the passage of Act 426 of the Public Acts of 1988 (MCL 287.321 et seq., MSA 12.545(21) et seq.) by the Michigan legislature which

- provides for additional penalties and procedures for the protection against dangerous animals.
- (d) Based on national data the City concludes that the existing pit bull terriers within the City constitute a risk of harm to the residents hereof, constitute dangerous animals, and must therefore be closely regulated as provided herein.
 - (e) The City has further concluded that it is in the interest of public health, safety and welfare that the presence of pit bull terriers be limited in the City to only those existing licensed pit bull terrier dogs in order that the threat of this breed will eventually be removed from the City.
 - (f) The City finds, from many reliable sources, ample evidence to support the following facts about pit bull terriers:
 - (1) Pit bull terriers were, for centuries, selectively bred for the express purpose of attacking other dogs or other animals such as bulls, bears and wild hogs.
 - (2) In developing a dog for this purpose, certain traits were selected and maximized by controlled breeding including extremely powerful jaws, a low sensitivity to pain, extreme aggressiveness towards other animals, and a natural tendency to refuse to terminate an attack once it has begun.
 - (3) The pit bull terriers' canine jaws can crush a victim with up to two thousand (2,000) pounds of pressure per square inch, three (3) times that of a German shepherd or Doberman pinscher, making the pit bulls jaws the strongest of any animal, per pound.
 - (g) These findings and facts lead the City to conclude that a modified prohibition on the possession, maintenance and harboring of pit bull terriers, as defined herein, is reasonable and necessary for the protection of the public health, safety and welfare. The City Council is aware that the breed of dog called a "bull terrier," usually considered to be of the same phenotype as the specific breeds banned herein, is not included within the prohibition of this chapter. The City Council finds that this breed is not commonly found or bred at this time in the state or United States, and therefore does not pose the same risks.

608.09 PIT BULL TERRIER PHASED OUT.

A new Section 608.09 shall be added to Chapter 608 and be entitled Pit Bull Terrier Phased Out and read as follows:

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to acquire, possess or maintain, within the City, any pit bull terrier, as defined herein, except as permitted under Section 608.10.
- (b) Any person who knowingly acquires, keeps, harbors or maintains a pit bull terrier within the City, after the effective date of this Chapter, shall be guilty of a violation hereof and subject to the penalties contained herein, except as provided in Section 608.10.
- (c) This section shall not be construed to apply to any person who is both within the territorial boundaries of the City and in possession of any dog for the primary purpose of exhibiting or showing said dog at a dog show or similar event sponsored by a nationally recognized kennel club or dog breeders association, or its local affiliate or chapter.

608.10 POSSESSION OF EXISTING LICENSED PIT BULL TERRIERS.

A new Section 608.10 shall be added to Chapter 608 and be entitled Possession of Existing Licensed Pit Bull Terriers and read as follows:

Any person who, as of the date of adoption of this Chapter, owns and possesses within the limits of the City a licensed pit bull terrier, as well as any person who, as of the date of adoption of this Chapter, owns and possesses within the City limits of the City a pit bull terrier, for which it obtains a valid license with the County within thirty (30) days of the date of adoption of this Chapter, shall be excluded from the prohibition contained in Section 608.09 as to such existing animals only, subject however, to maintaining such dog under the restrictions and conditions set forth herein. Upon the death, sale or other transfer of ownership, or possession of such pit bull terrier, this exception to Section 608.09 shall terminate and be of no force and effect, provided, however, that transfers, but not sales, of licensed adult, non-vicious pit bull terriers shall also be excluded from the prohibition contained in Section 608.09.

608.11 RESTRICTIONS UPON THE OWNERSHIP AND MAINTENANCE OF EXISTING LICENSED PIT BULLS.

A new Section 608.11 shall be added to Chapter 608 and be entitled Restrictions Upon the Ownership and Maintenance of Existing Licensed Pit Bulls and read as follows:

- (a) Any person who claims an exception to Section 608.09 by virtue of preexisting ownership and possession of a licensed pit bull terrier shall comply with the requirements as stated in this section with respect to that ownership and possession.
- (b) At all times when such dog is outside of any enclosed structure, fenced yard or fenced dog run, the animal shall:
 - (1) Be under the control of a person over the age of eighteen (18) years.
 - (2) Be held securely by a leash of adequate strength to restrain the dog.
- (c) Pens or structures utilized for harboring or keeping such dog outside of habitable structure shall have secure sides and a secure top attached to the sides. If the pen or structure has no bottom secured to the sides, the sides must be embedded into the ground no less than one (1) foot.
- (d) Any litter of puppies from such existing licensed pit bull terriers shall be removed from the City upon attaining the age of four (4) months, or such puppies shall be subject to all other provisions of this Chapter.
- (e) Any such existing licensed pit bull terrier who is determined by a district court judge or magistrate to have exhibited behavior so as to fall within the definition of a vicious animal within this Chapter, shall lose its exemption herein, and shall be removed by the City or be destroyed, in the discretion of the court pursuant to Section 608.13.

608.12 PROHIBITED EXOTIC, RARE OR DANGEROUS ANIMALS.

A new Section 608.12 shall be added to Chapter 608 and be entitled Prohibited Exotic, Rare or Dangerous Animals and read as follows:

- (a) It shall be unlawful and a violation of this Chapter for any person to possess or maintain within the City the following animals:

- (1) All animals, including snakes and spiders, whose bite or venom, is poisonous or deadly to humans.
 - (2) Apes: Chimpanzees (Pan); gibbons (Hylobates); gorillas (Gorilla); orangutans (Pongo); and siamangs (Symphalangus).
 - (3) Baboons (Papoi, Mandrillus).
 - (4) Bears (Ursidae).
 - (5) Cheetahs (Acinonyx jubatus).
 - (6) Crocodylians (Crocodylus), and alligators.
 - (7) Constrictor snakes, or other poisonous reptiles.
 - (8) Coyotes (Canis latrans).
 - (9) Elephants (Elephas and Loxodonta).
 - (10) Gamecocks and other fighting birds.
 - (11) Hyenas (Hyaenidae).
 - (12) Jaguars (Panthera onca).
 - (13) Leopards (Panthera pardus).
 - (14) Lions (Panthera leo).
 - (15) Lynxes (Lynx).
 - (16) Ostriches (Struthio).
 - (17) Pumas (Felis concolor); also known as cougars, mountains lions and panthers.
 - (18) Wolves (Canis lupus).
 - (19) Wolf hybrids.
 - (20) Raccoons (Procyon lotor).
 - (21) Skunks (Genus Mephitis).
 - (22) Tigers (Felis tigris).
- (b) The prohibitions above shall not apply to pet shops licensed by the state department of agriculture, zoological gardens licensed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and accredited by the American Association for the accreditation of zoological parks and gardens, and circuses licensed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture if:
- (1) Their location conforms to the provision of the City's zoning ordinance.
 - (2) All animals and animal quarters are kept in a clean and sanitary condition and so maintained as to eliminate objectionable odors.
 - (3) Animals are maintained in quarters so constructed as to prevent their escape, and so as to humanely provide for their biological and social needs.
 - (4) No person lives or resides within one hundred (100) feet of the quarters in which the animals are kept.
- (c) The prohibitions above shall not apply to any person who is in possession of an injured animal listed in this section under a valid caregiver's permit issued by the state department of natural resources.

608.13 DESTRUCTION OR REMOVAL OF PROHIBITED ANIMALS.

A new Section 608.13 shall be added to Chapter 608 and be entitled Destruction or Removal of Prohibited Animals and read as follows:

- (a) Upon a sworn complaint that an animal is a pit bull terrier or one of the species of exotic or other animal prohibited by this Chapter, and is currently being illegally possessed or

- maintained, a district court judge or magistrate shall issue a summons to the owner ordering him to appear to show cause why the animal should not be destroyed or removed from the City.
- (b) Upon the filing of a sworn complaint as provided herein, the district court or magistrate may order the owner or possessor to immediately turn the animal over to an animal control officer, an incorporated humane society, a licensed veterinarian, or a boarding kennel, at the owner's option, to be retained by them until a hearing is held and a decision is made for the disposition of the animal. The expense of the boarding and retention of the prohibited animal is to be borne by the owner. After a hearing, the court or magistrate shall issue its findings and opinion as to whether the animal is subject to destruction or removal under this Chapter. If so, the court shall order the destruction of the animal at the expense of the City, or, in the alternative, at the court's discretion, order the animal removed from the City under terms and conditions which ensure such removal.
- (c) Illegally possessed and/or maintained animals and lawfully possessed pit bull terriers, which reasonably appear to have become vicious animals, as defined by this Chapter, are subject to immediate seizure or pick-up under this Chapter. The impounded animal shall be held at a facility (as determined by the County Animal Control) designated by an animal control officer, at the owner's expense. The complaining witness shall promptly comply with the complaint requirements of subsections (a) and (b) of this section.

608.14 PIT BULL TERRIER DETERMINATION GUIDELINES.

A new Section 608.14 shall be added to Chapter 608 and be entitled Pit Bull Terrier Determination Guidelines and read as follows:

The following procedures and standards shall be used by all animal control and public safety officers in determining whether a particular animal is subject to the requirements of this Chapter.

- (a) All officers shall initially determine why the dog is being considered for possible inclusion within this Chapter. Factors to be considered include, but are not limited to the following or a combination of the following:
- (1) Registration of the animal as a pit bull terrier, as defined.
 - (2) Identification of the animal as a pit bull terrier, as defined, by the owner, keeper, or harbinger of the dog.
 - (3) Positive identification of the animal as a pit bull terrier by an officer pursuant to the procedures set forth in this section.
 - (4) Identification by a lay witness who has personal knowledge that the dog is a pit bull terrier (Example: owner has referred to the dog as a pit bull terrier in witness's presence).
 - (5) Positive identification of the dog as a pit bull terrier by licensed veterinarian.
- (b) Positive identification of the dog as a pit bull terrier by an officer shall include any or all of the following:
- (1) Verification of inclusion by comparison of the physical characteristics of the subject dog with the breed standards contained in Appendix "A".
 - (2) Personal and professional experience of the officer in having observed pit bull terriers in the past.
 - (3) Identification of the animal as a pit bull terrier by the owner, keeper, or harbinger.

- (c) If an owner, keeper, or harbinger of an animal denies it is subject to this Chapter, an officer shall not consider the animal within the parameters of this Chapter unless the following conditions are met:
- (1) The officer believes the animal is a pit bull after comparing the physical characteristics of the animal with the identification material set forth herein.
 - (2) The officer identification of the animal as a pit bull is verified by an animal control officer or if an animal control officer is not available, by another officer after comparing the animal identification materials, provided that any animal identified as a pit bull by the officer who owner, keeper, or harbinger continues to deny the animal's identification as a pit bull shall be afforded the immediate opportunity to be brought before a licensed veterinarian approved by the City for identification purposes. The officer shall accept the breed identification of the veterinarian.

608.99 PENALTY.

Shall continue to be as set forth in Section 202.99 of the Codified Ordinances for the general Code penalty.

CITY OF IONIA

Dated: _____

BY: _____

Lynn E. Lafler, its Clerk

Introduction and First Reading:

December 6, 2011

Notice of Public Hearing:

December 11, 2011 *Sentinel-Standard*

Public Hearing, Second Reading, Adoption:

Effective:

CHAPTER 608 – Animals

Appendix “A”

American Kennel Club - American Pit Bull Terrier Standard

Head: Medium length. Brick like in shape. Skull flat and widest at the ears, with prominent cheeks free from wrinkles.

Muzzle: Square, wide and deep. Well pronounced jaws, displaying strength. Upper teeth should meet tightly over lower teeth, outside in front.

Ears: Cropped or uncropped (not important). Should set high on head, and be free from wrinkles.

Eyes: Should set far apart, low down on skull. Any color acceptable.

Nose: Wide open nostrils. Any color acceptable.

Neck: Muscular. Slightly arched. Tapering from shoulders to head. Free from looseness of skin.

Shoulders: Strong and muscular, with wide sloping shoulders.

Back: Short and strong. Slightly sloping from withers to rump. Slightly arched at loins, which should be slightly tucked.

Chest: Deep, but not too broad with wide sprung ribs.

Ribs: Close. Well-sprung, with deep back ribs.

Tail: Short in comparison to size. Set low and tapering to a fine point. Not carried over back. Bobbed tail not acceptable.

Legs: Large, round boned with straight, upright patterns, reasonably strong. Feet to be of medium size. Gait should be light and springy. No rolling or pacing.

Thigh: Long with muscles developed. Hocks down and straight.

Color: Any color or marking permissible.

Weight: Not important. Females preferred from thirty to fifty pounds. Males from thirty-five to sixty pounds.

Coat: Glossy. Short and stiff to the touch.

American Kennel Club - American Stafford Terrier

Head: Medium length, deep through, broad skull, very pronounced cheek muscles, distinct stop; and ears are set high.

Ears: Cropped or uncropped the latter preferred. Uncropped ears should be short and held half rose or prick. Full drop to be penalized.

Eyes: Dark and round, low down in skull and set far apart. No pink eyelids.

Muzzle: Medium length, rounded on upper side to fall away abruptly below eyes.

Jaws: Well defined. Underjaw to be strong and have biting power.

Lips: Close and even, no looseness.

Upper Teeth: To meet tightly outside lower teeth in front.

Nose: Definitely black.

Neck: Heavy, slightly arched, tapering from shoulders to back of skull. No looseness of skin. Medium length.

Shoulders: Strong and muscular with blades wide and sloping.

Back: Fairly short. Slight sloping from withers to rump with gentle short slope at rump to base of tail. Loins slightly tucked.

Body: Well-sprung ribs deep in rear. All ribs close together. Forelegs set rather wide apart to permit chest development. Chest deep and broad.

Tail: Short in comparison to size, low set tapering to a fine point; not curled or held over back. Not docked.

Legs: The front legs should be straight, large or round bones, pattern upright. No resemblance of bed in front. Hind-quarters well-muscled, let down at hocks, turning either in or out. Feet of moderate size, well arched and compact. Gait must be springy but without roll or pace.

Coat: Short, close, stiff to the touch, and glossy.

Size: Height and weight should be in proportion. A height of about 18 to 19 inches at shoulders for the male and 17 to 18 inches for the female is to be considered preferable.

American Kennel Club – Staffordshire Bull Terrier

Head and Skull: Short, deep through, broad skull, very pronounced cheek muscles distinct stop, short foreface, black nose. Pink (Dudley) nose to be considered a serious fault.

Eyes: Dark preferable, but may bear some relation to coat color. Round of medium size and set to look straight ahead. Light eyes or pink eye rims to be considered a fault, except that where the coat surrounding the eye is white the eye rim may be pink.

Ears: Rose or half-pricked and not large. Full drop or full prick to be considered a serious fault.

Mouth: A bite in which the outer side of the lower incisors touches the inner side of the upper incisors. The lips should be tight and clean. The badly undershot or overshot bite is a serious fault.

Neck: Muscular, rather short, clean in outline and gradually widening towards the shoulders.

Forequarters: Legs straight and well boned, set rather far apart, without looseness at the shoulders and showing no weakness at the pasterns from which point the feet turn out a little.

Body: The body is close coupled, with a level topline, wide front, deep brisket and well sprung ribs being rather light in the loins.

Hindquarters: The hindquarters should be well muscled, hocks let down with stifles well bent. Legs should be parallel when viewed from behind.

Feet: The feet should be well padded, strong and of medium size. Dewclaws, if any, on the hind legs are generally removed. Dewclaws on the forelegs may be removed.

Tail: The tail is undocked, of medium length, low set, tapering to a point and carried rather low. It should not curl much and may be likened to an old-fashioned pump-handle. A tail that is too long or badly curled is a fault.

Coat: Smooth, short and close to the skin, not be trimmed or de-whiskered.

Color: Red, fawn, white, black or blue, or any of these colors with white. Any shade of brindle or any shade of brindle with white. Black-and-tan or liver color to be disqualified.

Size: Weight: Dogs, 28 to 38 pounds; bitches, 24 to 34 pounds. Height at shoulder: 14-16 inches, these heights being related to weights. Nonconformity with these limits is a fault.