



# Denver Pit Bull Fact Sheet

January 1, 2021

Denver residents voted November 3, 2020, to repeal the pit bull ban. Under [Denver's Ordinance Sec. 8-67](#), restricted breeds (American Pit Bull Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier, or Staffordshire Bull Terrier) are prohibited ***unless they have been issued a provisional Breed-Restricted Permit.***

This means that Denver residents may not own or keep a pit bull within the city without first obtaining a Breed-Restricted Permit from Denver Animal Protection (DAP).

Pit bull-type dogs are defined as any dog displaying a majority of physical traits of any one or more of the specific breeds mentioned above, or any dog exhibiting those distinguishing (physical) characteristics, which substantially conform to the standards established by American Kennel Club or United Kennel Club.

The ordinance was officially amended January 1, 2021, and DAP has established an initial **Breed-Restricted Permitting Process** based on the amended language of the ordinance voted into law to help pit bull owners plan for the changes. It is the responsibility of any new owner of an adopted breed-restricted animal to contact DAP to initiate the provisional permitting process.

Information on how to schedule an assessment through Denver Animal Protection is posted at [DenverAnimalShelter.org](http://DenverAnimalShelter.org)

*If your question is not answered below, please review the FAQ that follows.*

### **City of Denver Breed-Restricted Permitting Process:**

Effective immediately, all pit bull owners and adopters must contact Denver Animal Protection to schedule an appointment for a breed-restricted assessment. Assessments will take 30-45 minutes and will be conducted by Denver Animal Protection (DAP) at the [Denver Animal Shelter](#). The assessment fee is \$25 per dog and is non-refundable. No owner or keeper of any pit bull may own or keep more than two (2) pit bulls per household.

Through the assessment process, if your dog is determined ***not to have*** a majority of the physical characteristics of the banned breeds, the dog will be allowed in Denver without a permit. The owner will be provided with an official breed evaluation letter stating that the dog was evaluated by Denver Animal Protection. Assessment fees are non-refundable. All dogs in Denver are required to have a rabies vaccination, [city license](#), and be spayed or neutered, or have an intact permit allowing the dog to remain unaltered (which requires a \$150 fee; more information [here](#)).

If, through the assessment process, your dog is determined ***to have*** a majority of the physical characteristics of the banned breeds, you will need to follow the application process for obtaining a **Breed-Restricted Permit**.

### ***The application process for a Breed-Restricted Permit to own or keep a pit bull will require the following:***

- Name and address of the owner or keeper where the pit bull will be located
- The names and addresses of two (2) people who may be contacted in the event of an emergency involving the pit bull
- An accurate description of the pit bull and recent photograph

- The payment of the \$30 Breed-Restricted Permit fee (this is in addition to the \$25 assessment fee)
- Proof that the animal has been neutered or spayed, or proof of an intact permit from DAP that allows the animal to remain unaltered
- Proof that the animal has had a registered microchip implanted
- Proof that the animal has a current rabies vaccination
- Proof that the animal has a [city license](#)
- Any other information that DAP reasonably requires

The fee for the permit is \$30 per animal, and it must be renewed every year for three (3) years (at \$30 per animal per year). If there are no violations\* within that time period, **Breed-Restricted Permit** holders may request to be removed from Breed-Restricted requirements.

\*Examples of potential violations include, **but are not limited to**:

- Off-leash charge
- Lapsed permit charge
- Excrement charge
- Bite charge
- Excessive barking charge
- Potentially dangerous animal/dangerous animal charge

Each violation results in a resetting of the three-year time period, or other consequences. In order to reapply for a Breed-Restricted Permit, owners and keepers must show proof that the violation has been corrected.

In addition to the Breed-Restricted Permit, each and every dog and cat living within the City and County of Denver is required to have a city license (\$15 per animal annually, or \$40 for three years) purchased at the time of receiving the Breed-Restricted Permit; a city license can be purchased at [DenverAnimalShelter.org](http://DenverAnimalShelter.org).

## FAQ

### **Can my humane organization place a pit bull into a foster home in Denver without an evaluation?**

No, all **humane organizations** must complete a breed evaluation at DAP and follow all required steps to obtain a Breed-Restricted Permit before the pit bull can be placed in a foster home in the City and County of Denver.

### **Whose name will be on the Breed-Restricted Permit?**

The Breed-Restricted Permit will be titled under the fostering **humane organization's** name, not the foster's name.

### **Can my humane organization place a pit bull up for adoption without a breed evaluation?**

Yes. **Humane organizations** can place a pit bull up for adoption without a breed evaluation. Adopters must be informed by the **humane organization** that the dog will need a Breed-Restricted Permit. Instructional materials will be supplied to the **humane organization** to give to adopters for follow up with DAP. Breed-Restricted Permits are only required for pit bulls that will be placed in a foster home in Denver. Pit bulls that will be adopted straight from the **humane organization** do not require a Breed-Restricted Permit at the time of adoption. Adopters must be educated by adopting **humane organization** that a Breed-Restricted Permit is required if the dog will be living in Denver.

### **Will DAP come to my humane organization to perform breed evaluations or do I need to come to DAP?**

Currently, DAP will only perform breed evaluations at the Denver Animal Shelter.

### **Are there specific times/dates that DAP performs breed evaluations for shelters and rescues?**

Currently, DAP performs breed evaluations with limited 30-minute timeslot availability. Evaluations must be scheduled at least 7 days in advance. Please see evaluation calendar at [denvergov.org/naoa/](https://denvergov.org/naoa/) for current scheduling availability. You must choose Denver Animal Shelter Lobby as the location on the drop-down list.

### **How many dogs can be evaluated at one time?**

One dog per 30-minute appointment slot can be accommodated for an evaluation.

### **Is there a different cost for shelters or rescues to complete a breed evaluation?**

No, all standard fees must be paid by the **humane organization** applying for the Breed-Restricted Permit. A Denver city license is not required for pit bulls being placed in foster homes in Denver.

### **Is a Breed-Restricted Permit transferred to a new owner at the time of adoption?**

A Breed-Restricted Permit will not be transferred to a new owner. Adopters must be educated by adopting **humane organization** that a Breed-Restricted Permit is required if the dog will be living in Denver.

### **Do I need to alert DAP if a pit bull is returned to my agency?**

If a pit bull being fostered at a Denver residence comes back to the fostering **humane organization**, DAP should be notified when the dog is placed back into a different foster home in Denver so that the address where the dog is being fostered can be updated. If the pit bull is adopted out of the foster's home to an owner in Denver, the adopter should be educated that a Breed-Restricted Permit is required by law.