

# Prohibited Dog Registration Guidelines



Protect Yourself  
Protect Your Dog  
Protect Your Neighbour

Register Your Dog

IT'S THE LAW!



Department of Agriculture  
Cayman Islands

The following Mastiff Breeds are NOT included in the prohibited list, therefore, the Regulations do not apply to them:

Boston Terrier  
Boxer  
Doberman Pinscher  
English Bull Terrier  
English Bulldog  
English Mastiff  
French Bulldog  
Great Dane  
Miniature Bull Terrier  
Newfoundland  
Pug  
Saint Bernard



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## List of Prohibited Breeds of Dogs

### Non-Mastiff Breeds

Catahoula Leopard Dog  
Chinese Shar-Pei  
Japanese Akita  
Malinois

### Mastiff Breeds

American Bulldog  
American Pitbull Terrier  
American Staffordshire Terrier  
Appenzeller  
Aryan Molossus  
Belgian Mastiff  
Bernese Mountain Dog  
Bullmastiff  
Cane Corso  
Danish Broholmer  
Dogo Argentino  
Dogue de Bordeaux  
Entelbucher  
Fila Brasileiro  
Greater Swiss Mountain Dog  
Japanese Tosa (Tosa Inu)  
Landseer  
Leonberger  
Moscow Watchdog  
Neapolitan Mastiff  
Perro de Presa Canario  
Perro de Presa Mallorquin  
Rottweiler  
Staffordshire Bull Terrier  
Tibetan Mastiff

Dogs that are crosses of any of the prohibited breeds of dogs are also considered to be prohibited and therefore must be registered.

If you are unsure of the breed of your dog or think that your dog may contain one or more of the listed breeds, you may apply to the Chief Agricultural and Veterinary Officer (CAVO) for a determination. The fee for such a determination is \$50.00. Upon examination of the dog, if the CAVO determines that the dog is a prohibited dog, it must then be registered.

If the determination is that the dog is not a prohibited dog, the dog will be implanted with a microchip and a certificate will be issued which states that the dog is not a prohibited dog.

## **The Registration Process**

**NOTE:** You must be at least 16 years of age to own a prohibited dog. If you are not, then your parent, guardian or other responsible adult must assume responsibility for the animal. It will be registered in their name.

Your dog must be registered with the Department of Agriculture. Thereafter, the registration must be renewed annually (for the life of your dog).

In order to be registered, your dog must be implanted with a microchip and spayed or neutered. The following are the steps to be taken to register your dog:

Take your dog to the veterinarian and have it implanted with a microchip and spayed or neutered.

The vet must issue a certificate with the animal's microchip number, verifying that the dog was spayed or neutered.

If you own a male dog that is already neutered, any veterinarian can examine it and issue a certificate of neuter.

If you own a female dog that is already spayed, have the veterinarian that performed the operation issue the certificate. If this veterinarian is not available or not known, your vet may have to perform a minor surgical procedure in order to confirm the dog has been spayed.

If your dog is not already licensed, this will be done at the time of registration.

At the Department of Agriculture, a colour photograph of your dog will be taken. Once it has been determined that all other requirements have been met, and you pay the \$50.00 registration fee, you will be issued with a special blue registration tag and a registration certificate. Your dog must wear the tag at all times.

You must renew your licence and registration annually. A new registration certificate will be issued each year, however the blue tag will remain. If in the course of the year this tag is damaged or lost, you must advise the Department right away.

## **Prohibited Dogs: Care & Control**

Once your dog is registered, you will be allowed to continue to keep it as a pet. However there are certain conditions under which you must keep it.

### **At home**

Your dog must be kept in a secure environment. If it is normally kept in a yard, enclosure or pen, It must be walled or fenced-in. The fence must be such that the dog cannot get under, over or through it (chain-link, close boarded or narrow-spaced picket fences or walls are appropriate).

The size of the pen or enclosure should be appropriate for the size of your dog and be sufficient to meet humane welfare and security standards. In any case, the **minimum** floor space for a pen or enclosure is 24square feet approximately 6 feet by 4 feet). The fence or wall must be at least 5 feet in height.

(Note: the Planning Law requires you to contact the Planning Department prior to the construction of any fence or wall over 3 ½feet high).

All gates or entranceways through the fence or wall must be able to close securely and must be kept locked with a key or combination lock when ever your dog is on the premises.

If your dog is kept indoors, the doors must be locked and all openings and windows adjusted in such a way that the animal cannot get out.

You must place a sign, on the property where the dog is housed, so that anyone approaching the property can read it clearly. The sign must be at least six inches by four inches in size, with the words "PROHIBITED DOG" in black lettering on a white background.

### **In a vehicle**

When transporting your dog, you must ensure that:

- The animal is fully enclosed including a closed roof.
- The dog must not be transported in the bed of a truck, an open jeep, and a convertible car with the roof down.
- The vehicle must be kept locked when the dog is inside.
- The dog must be muzzled when travelling.

### **In public places**

When walking your dog or taking it into public places, it must be on a leash and muzzled at all times. The leash must be no more than four (4) feet in length. The muzzle must be one designed to prevent the dog from biting any person or animal. You must always be in physical control of the leash. It must not be tied to any post, tree or building. You must maintain control of your dog at all times.

## **Other Important Points**

A prohibited dog cannot be:  
bred or bred from;  
sold; exchanged;  
given away;  
abandoned.

If you no longer wish to own your prohibited dog you must surrender it to the Department of Agriculture.

If your dog dies, is lost or is stolen, you must report it to the Department of Agriculture within five (5)days of the occurrence.

## **Enforcement and Penalties**

Anyone who fails to have a prohibited dog registered is guilty of an offence and, upon summary conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six (6) months or a fine not exceeding four thousand dollars (C\$4,000.00 or to both.

Owners found guilty may also be disqualified from owning or having custody of a dog.

A police officer or an officer appointed by the CAVO may inspect any premises, at reasonable times, where a prohibited dog may be held and may inspect any dog there to ascertain that the provisions of the law are being complied with (the dog is registered and being kept in the way as described in these guidelines).

Anyone who deliberately obstructs or delays an officer in carrying out his duties is guilty of an offence.

If a dog is found not to be registered, or not confined, leashed or muzzled as required, it will be seized and impounded, and a notice of the seizure issued stating the reasons why the animal was seized.

If a notice is received that a dog has been seized, the owner must, within seven (7) days of that notice, provide a written explanation why the violation occurred.

The dog will be humanely destroyed if a reason is not forthcoming, or if the CAVO has reason to believe that it is in the public's interest to do so.

Owners bear legal responsibility for any injuries caused by their dog and will be bound by section 39 of the Animals Law (2003 Revision) which states in part that: "The owner of every dog shall be liable in damages for injuries done to any person, or any cattle, or sheep, by his dog . . . - Such damages shall be recoverable in a court of competent jurisdiction.'