

# Beaufort County, South Carolina

## **Sec. 14-27. - Definitions.**

Pit Bull shall mean any dog that is an American Pit Bull Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier, Staffordshire Bull Terrier, American Bulldog, American Bully, Cane Corso, or any dog that exhibits physical characteristics which predominantly conform to the standards established by the American Kennel Club (AKC), United Kennel Club (UKC), or American Dog Breeders Association (ADBA) for any of the above breeds.

(Ord. No. 2015-27, 10-12-2015 ; Ord. No. 2019-24, 6-10-2019)

## **Sec. 14-30. - Declaration of restricted dog, appeal of breed determination.**

- (a) For the purposes of this section, a restricted dog shall be defined as a Pit Bull.
- (b) No person may own, keep, or harbor a restricted dog in violation of this section.
- (c) An owner or custodian of restricted dogs must have the dog spayed or neutered unless the owner of the restricted dog provides BCAS written proof that one of the following exemptions applies:
  - (1) The restricted dog is less than four months of age;
  - (2) A licensed veterinarian has examined the animal and signed a written certificate stating that at such time spaying or neutering would endanger the animal's health because its age, infirmity, disability or other medical consideration. The certificate shall state the period of exemption from this requirement and shall not be valid for more than 12 months from the date of issuance;
  - (3) The determination of the dog's breed is under appeal pursuant to subsection (f);  
or
  - (4) The owner or custodian has owned or had custody of the dog less than 30 days.
- (d) An owner or custodian of a restricted dog must provide for the dog's permanent identification by implantation of a BCAS approved microchip.
- (e) Determination of breed and appeal of determination.
  - (1) Determination. The BCAS director or his/her designee, in his or her discretion, may make an initial breed determination upon contact with, or impoundment of a dog. The determination shall be made by the director or designee in accordance with BCAS's breed determination checklist. Technical deficiency in the dog's conformance to the standards defined in section 14-27 for Pit Bulls shall not be construed to indicate the dog is not a Pit Bulldog under this section.

(2) Notice. Upon determination of the breed, the BCAS officer shall deliver written notice of determination to the owner or any adult residing at the premises where the animal is located or by posting on the premises if no adult is present. The notice shall include the determination of breed, mandatory spay and neuter requirements, an administrative penalty and notice of appeal process.

(3) Compliance. The owner or custodian of an unaltered restricted dog shall comply with this article within ten days after receipt of notice of restricted dog determination. Upon compliance, the owner or custodian shall submit written documentation to BCAS confirming compliance. If ownership of the dog is transferred within the time for compliance, the original owner or custodian must provide BCAS with the new owner's name and address.

(f) Appeal. Notice of a declaration of breed determination constitutes a final determination that the dog is a restricted dog, unless the owner or custodian requests a hearing in writing to the Beaufort County Magistrate Court within ten days of service of the notice.

(Ord. No. 2015-27, 10-12-2015 ; Ord. No. 2019-24, 6-10-2019)

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