

From: McDowell, Traci [tmcdowell@dover.de.us]
Sent: Wednesday, November 01, 2006 10:58 AM
To: Ruane, Eugene B.
Subject: Pitt Bulls

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Mr. Ruane,

Below is the response from Chief Horvath regarding pitt bulls.

Please let me know if there is something you would like for me to do.

In regards to the vicious dog ordinance, I'm not sure how they want to make it more strict. Are they talking about increasing the fines or something other than that? The Animal Control Officer, Mark Moore, has suggested passing an ordinance banning the ownership of Pit Bulls in the city limits. In 2005 we had 11 vicious dog complaints. So far in 2006 we have had 25 vicious dog complaints. In 2005 we had 28 dog bite complaints. Of those 28 bites a total of 6 bites were by Pit Bulls (21%). In 2006, so far we have had 19 dog bite complaints. Of those 19 bites a total of 8 have been by Pit Bulls (42%). I personally believe that in most cases the dog is not the main problem but the owner is. This is especially true with owning Pit Bulls. I would support an increase in penalties or a banning of the Pit Bull breed. I do think the banning of the breed will initially cause a lot of work and controversy. Do we grandfather in current Pit Bull owners? and if so do we force current owners to register their Pit Bulls? Or do we force them to get rid of the dogs by a certain date. The City Solisitor would be better to answer those questions. I will forward Newark and Wilmington's ordinances for your viewing pleasure.

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1.15 Accessory uses, limited to the following:

- (a) Professional office or studio of an artist, dentist, musician, teacher, or physician, but not including veterinarians, provided that:
 - i. Such office or studio is incidental to the residential use of the premises and is carried on by a resident thereon with not more than one nonresident assistant; and
 - ii. Such office or studio shall occupy not more than 30 percent of the area of one floor of the main building.
 - iii. Studios where dancing or music instruction is offered to groups in excess of four pupils at one time or where concerts or recitals are held are prohibited.
 - iv. Medical centers, barbershops, beauty parlors, real estate offices, funeral homes or similar uses shall not be considered permitted accessory uses.

- (b) Garden house, tool house, playhouse, greenhouse or pool incidental to the residential use of the premises and not operated for gain, provided that pools of 30 inches deep shall be subject to the following requirements:
 - i. The edge of the pool shall be kept a distance of not less than ten feet from all property lines.
 - ii. If located within 50 feet of any property line, such pool shall be screened from the view of abutting properties. Such screen shall be at least five feet high.
 - iii. Such pool shall be completely surrounded by a fence or wall not less than 3 1/2 feet in height and so constructed as not to have openings larger than four inches in at least one dimension. All gates or doors opening through such enclosure shall be equipped with a self-closing and self-latching device for keeping the gate or door securely closed at all times when not in actual use.
 - iv. Swimming pools shall be permitted to be established in the side and rear yard, but shall be prohibited from placement within the required front yard.

- (c) Private garage, provided that, in the case of a one-family dwelling, such garage shall have a capacity of not more than three passenger automobiles. One such space may be leased to a person not [a] resident on the premises.

- (d) Keeping domestic animals (except pigs) for individual domestic purposes or as pets, provided not more than three dogs over six months old and not more than 25 fowl shall be permitted, and no animals (except dogs) or fowl shall be penned or housed within 20 feet of any lot line.