

**ORDINANCE BANNING THE OWNERSHIP OF PIT BULLS****WITHIN THE TOWN OF COFFEEVILLE, MS**

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen at the regular called meeting held on September 3, 2013 considered and determined that adopting an ordinance banning the ownership of "pit bulls" within the Town of Coffeeville, Mississippi, as set forth herein below is reasonable and proper.

**Section I: Applicability**

Pit bull or pit bull terrier: Any dog that is an American pit bull terrier, American Staffordshire terrier, Staffordshire bull terrier, any dog displaying the majority of physical traits of any one (1) or more of the above breeds or any dog exhibiting those distinguishing characteristics that substantially conform to the standards established by the American Kennel Club (AKC) or United Kennel Club (UKC) for any of the above breeds. A bill of sale or veterinary record that identifies an animal as a pit bull terrier mix shall be sufficient to establish that the animal in question is a pit bull terrier or a pit bull terrier mix for purposes of this chapter (from this point forward 'pit bull').

**Section 2: Prohibited Acts and Omissions**

It is unlawful for any person to own, possess, keep, exercise control over, maintain, harbor, transport or sell within the city any pit bull except as provided herein.

**Section 3: Registration**

The owner of a pit bull shall be entitled to keep a pit bull only if such owner initially registered such pit bull with the city's police department by November 1, 2013.

Initial registration is not transferable.

1. Annual Renewal of Registration: Upon expiration on December 31, 2013, of the initial registration period, the registration of a pit bull kept pursuant to the provisions of this chapter shall be renewed on an annual basis as follows:
  - a) No later than the 31<sup>st</sup> day of January of each year, the registration of a pit bull shall be renewed and an annual registration fee of \$5.00 shall be paid.
  - b) Renewal shall be permitted only upon satisfaction of the conditions set forth in this section.
  - c) Renewal shall be made only by the holder of the registration or such individual's immediate family and is otherwise not transferable. Nothing in this section shall be construed to permit "renewal" of a pit bull registration for which initial registration was not previously completed.
2. Renewal Compliance: To renew the registration of a pit bull, the owner must comply with each of the following requirements:
  - a) The owner shall pay the applicable registration renewal fee of \$5.00.
  - b) The pit bull shall be current on all vaccinations required by this Code, documentary proof of which shall be presented to the police department.
  - c) At the time of each registration renewal, the owner shall present the pit bull for inspection.
  - d) The owner shall have on his/her property a pit bull enclosure.
  - e) The owner shall conspicuously affix a warning sign on or near the front door of the owner's residence that notifies a visitor to the residence that a pit bull is contained on the premises.
  - f) When a pit bull is on the property of the owner, the pit bull shall be kept in compliance with one of Sections VI; VII; VIII; IX; X; of the VICIOUS DOGS ORDINANCES OF THE TOWN OF COFFEEVILLE, at all times:

- g) The pit bull tag issued to the owner at the time of initial registration shall be attached at all times to the pit bull by means of a collar or harness and shall not be attached to any pit bull other than the registered pit bull. Further, the tag will only be issued once the owner of the pit bull is in full compliance with Section V of the VICIOUS DOG ORDINANCES OF THE TOWN OF COFFEEVILLE. Once the tag has been issued, the owner must remain in compliance with Section V of the VICIOUS DOG ORDINANCES OF THE TOWN OF COFFEEVILLE.
- h) The owner shall notify the police department within twenty-four (24) hours in the event that the pit bull is lost, stolen or dies.
- i) The owner shall notify the police department with ten (1) days of any change of the owner's address.

#### Section 4: Coffeeville Police Department Pit Bull File.

The police department shall maintain a file containing the registration numbers, photographs and names of pit bulls and the names and addresses of the owners.

Upon renewal of pit bull registration, the police department shall compare the new photograph of the pit bull with the most recent photograph in the file to ensure that the renewing pit bull is the same animal initially registered.

#### Section 5: Impoundments.

Any unregistered pit bull found in the city may be immediately impounded pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.

#### Section 6: Exemptions.

The following are exempt from the provisions of this section:

1. A duly authorized agent or employee of the city acting within the scope of his/her employment with the city;
2. Where a pit bull is transported from a point outside the city to a destination outside the city or from a point outside the city to a common carrier within the city which will transport the pit bull outside the city.

#### Section 7: Penalties.

Violations of this ordinance shall be punishable as described in Section XVII of the VICIOUS DOGS ORDINANCES OF THE TOWN OF COFFEEVILLE.

#### Section 8: Insurance.

Each owner of a pit bull or other dog breed contemplated by the foregoing ordinance must obtain a liability insurance policy of not less than \$75,000.00. Proof of such insurance policy must be present prior to the pit bull being registered.

THE CLERK FOR THE TOWN OF COFFEEVILLE SHALL CAUSE: this amendment to be published one time in the Coffeeville Courier. This amendment is effective November 1, 2013 The adoption of this ordinance has no effect on the Vicious Dog Ordinance.