

City to put teeth in pit bull law

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Akron -- The city plans to put some teeth behind its 18-year-old pit bull law, stepping up enforcement in response to citizen complaints. Deputy Service Director Jeff Fusco said nearly 250 complaints about pit bulls have come in over the last six months. In response, the city is giving pit bull owners a grace period, until March 19, when the humane society and dog wardens will hit the neighborhoods looking for violations. There's a \$500 fine for failure to register a pit bull. Registration costs \$25 and must include two color photographs of the dog, proof the owner has \$50,000 of liability insurance, a county dog license, proof of rabies vaccination and proof that the dog has a tattoo or embedded microchip for identification. Owners must also display city-made warning signs. The dog must wear a fluorescent green collar and be confined to a house or an enclosed pen with a concrete floor. When walked, it must be muzzled and tethered to a short chain.