

Big Fines Await Owners Who Don't Register Pit Bulls

Akron Law Will Require Pit Bull Owners To Register Dogs

POSTED: 6:24 pm EST March 7, 2007

UPDATED: 6:47 pm EST March 7, 2007

AKRON, Ohio -- Owning a pit bull is becoming more popular, but there's one place where owning a pit bull can cost you more than the dog itself.

The city of Akron is enforcing a dog law that has plenty of teeth, reported NewsChannel5's Jonathan Costen.

Six years ago, Charlie Sturm and his wife got a surprise when they found Ginger at their home.

"She's laying in the driveway there, huffing and puffing slobbering, running out of her mouth, her legs were broken her face was ripped to shreds ... Every vet we went to, no one wanted to work on her, they didn't want to work on her because she's a pit bull," said Sturm.

Sturm eventually found a vet, and \$2,300 later, he said the pit bull is the best dog his family has ever owned.

But pit bull owners will now have to register their dogs, a law that grew out of hundreds of complaints about pit bulls.

Owners have to pay \$25 to register their pit bulls and carry \$50,000 of liability insurance. The dog also has to have a tattoo or microchip implanted and it has to wear a fluorescent green collar.

If owners don't follow the law, the fine is \$500.

"The Humane Society and the Summit County Animal Control are going to assist us in terms of going out. We know where those complaints came from, we have the data," said Akron deputy service director Jeff Fusco.

Sturm said he thinks the law is fair.

"Well if they're not taking care of them, keeping them locked in and everything, I think they're in the wrong," said Sturm. "Like her, we keep her locked in, pretty much trained her to be nice and she's nice. If we wanted, we could've trained her to say, 'There's Jonathan, get him!' The next thing you she's out the door and she's got you."

Sturm said the law will crack down on the people who give the animals a bad name.

Pit bull owners must also post a warning sign on their premises. The city is giving the dog owners until March 19 to register their pets.

Copyright 2007 by [NewsNet5](#). All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.