

Government Classification (Menacing)



American Pit Bull Terrier / Pit Bull Terrier



Dogo Argentino



Fila Brasileiro



Japanese Tosa

You are alleged or our records show you to be the owner of a dog for which the Government has created an additional classification in the interests of public safety.

What does this Government classification mean?

Dogs of the American Pit Bull Terrier **type**, or of the Brazilian Fila, Dogo Argentino or Japanese Tosa **breed** must be classified.

The word '**type**' is important under this section because, if your dog has American Pit Bull Terrier characteristics then it is required by law to be classified.

This classification simply requires dog owners to maintain control over their dogs in public places and gives the community a sense of safety.

Which dogs will be classified?

- Any dog, regardless of breed, which Council considers may pose a threat to any person, stock, poultry, domestic animal, or protected wildlife.
- Any dog which belongs wholly or predominantly to any of the dogs mentioned above.

The Effects of the Government Classification.

Most of what you are required to do under this classification is already being done by many responsible dog owners.

- You may be required to neuter your dog under a Council bylaw. Note; Neutered dogs live longer and are less susceptible to disease.
- Your dog must be muzzled at all times when in a public place. Even if your dog is not likely to bite, a muzzle gives the public a feeling of safety.
- You must advise any person who has temporary possession of your dog, the requirements to use the muzzle in a public place.
- Your dog must be micro-chipped within 2 months after 1 July 2006. Note: All dogs being registered for the first time after July 2006 must be micro-chipped.

Your Rights of Objection

Where any dog has been classified under this section, the owner may within 14 days object in writing to the Council.

You must have valid grounds for an objection and produce evidence that your dog is not of a breed or type listed above. Simply electing to describe your dog as some other breed or disagreeing with the legislation are not a valid grounds for an objection.

IMPORTANT NOTE

You are not being labelled as an irresponsible dog owner. Statistics show that some dogs are more prone and very capable of inflicting serious injury with little or no provocation. There will always be a risk to the community from dogs biting. However, in response to several serious dog attacks, the Government reviewed the Dog Control legislation.

Your dog's previous or current behaviour has no bearing on this classification.