

Dangerous Dogs Law for the State of Baden-Württemberg

The attacks of dangerous dogs on people – in some cases with fatal results – required a law for the fight of dangerous dogs. The law on “Restrictions for the Introduction and Importation of Dogs” came into force 21 April 2001 in Germany and applies to everyone living in-country whether they are a German citizen or not. This includes U.S. military personnel, civilian employees and their family members who either reside on a U.S. military installation or on the German economy. According to this law, certain breeds deemed as dangerous as well as cross breeds among them or with other dogs must not be introduced or imported into Germany. Breeding these dogs is also not authorized. All German states adopted these strict dangerous dog rules with each state differing little in their laws. On 16 August 2000 the Ministry of Interior of the state of Baden-Württemberg enacted the law against dangerous dogs. The term Dangerous Dog (Kampfhund) is defined as a dog that due to its race-specific characteristics, either through breeding and in individual cases through keeping/husbandry or training, has an increased tendency to be aggressive and could bite at a low level of provocation and therefore, could pose a threat to humans or other animals.

The following three breeds are presumed to be particular dangerous and aggressive:

AMERICAN STAFFORDSHIRE TERRIER

BULLTERRIER

PIT-BULL TERRIER

(Or any dog mixed with any breed listed above)

The characteristics of a dangerous dog apply to the following breeds if they show signs of increased aggressiveness and after having been temperament tested by a German police officer or state veterinarian are deemed to pose a danger to humans and animals.

BULLMASTIFF

DOGO ARGENTINO

DOGUE de BORDEUX

FILA BRASILEIRO

MASTIFF

MASTIN ESPANOL

MASTINO NAPOLETANO

STAFFORDSHIRE BULLTERRIOR

TOSA INU

(Or any dog mixed with any breed listed above)

Dogs/breeds not listed above that are aggressive, bite, and chase and kill other animals are also considered dangerous dogs by this law.

In order to receive a permit have a dangerous dog in Baden-Württemberg the owner needs to provide a legitimate interest why they need to bring into this state.

The requirements for all dangerous dogs older than six months are:

- owner must have permission to own a dangerous dog from the local police station at their place of residence in Germany.
- owner must request in writing that their dog be temperament tested ([Request Sample Letter, Questionnaire](#))
- dog must be temperament tested at your expense by a German police officer or state veterinarian regarding their potential increased aggressiveness (fee is approx. 165 Euro per dog)
- a dog that was less than 15 months old when temperament tested must repeat the test between the age of 15-18 months.
- dog must be tattooed or microchipped
- dog must be current on rabies shots

- dog must wear a tag with owners information on dog collar so they can be contacted at all times if necessary.
- owner should have liability insurance for the dog
- dog must be kept on a leash (no longer than 2 meters/6.5 feet) and muzzled in public at all times.
- owner must carry permission papers from the local German police station with them at all times when in public with the dog.

Temperament Test

After the request for a temperament test and the questionnaire have been submitted to the town hall of your German place of residence the owner can schedule an appointment for the temperament test.

The following requirements must be met:

- Owner has to bring the dog to the test and conduct the test with the dog
- Owner needs to be able to control the dog
- Owner needs to bring passport for identification
- Dog needs to be microchipped or tattooed
- Owner needs to provide pedigree if available
- Dog must be rabies vaccinated, bring documentation for proof
- Dog has to be on a sturdy chain, leather, or synthetic leash (no longer than 2 meters/6.5 feet). Also bring a muzzle.
- It is recommended that the owner has liability insurance. (You can obtain insurance through your household insurer. Full coverage including accidents and bites costs around 100 Euro per year.)

The temperament test will cover, among other things, the following subjects:

- Is the dog obedient?
- What is the dog's behavior when it gets tied up and owner walks out of sight?
- How does the dog react to other vehicles?
- How does the dog react towards strangers?
- How does the dog react to other animals?
- How does the dog react to acoustic and optical stimulus?

It is recommended that you have a certificate of completion of obedience school training to submit with your application.

NOTE: Owners who drug their dog with tranquilizers to calm it down before the test will risk that the test is considered failed and final by the official testing expert. A new test will not be possible.

If the dog was already temperament tested in another German state it might not have to redo the test in Baden-Württemberg. Please contact the police station at your new location in Baden-Württemberg for information.

If the temperament test reveals no increased aggressiveness and danger towards people and animals, the officially appointed testing expert will transmit the positive results ([Sample form](#)) to your local German police station which will issue the permit to possess this dangerous dog in Baden-Württemberg. The permit only applies to the tested dog and cannot be transferred to another dog. Note: the test results are not binding for your local German police station to issue you a permit. They are the final decision authority and could still deny the permit if they still have doubts about the dog. They can also revoke the permit at any time if the dog's behavior changes after it has passed the test.

If the dog is found to be aggressive and a danger toward people, the dog needs to be shipped back to the states to your friends or family or euthanized at your expense. Failure to do so will result in a fine of up to 25,565 Euro and the German authorities will euthanize your dog.

The German authorities might request a certificate of good conduct from the owner.

The owner also has to do an aptitude test which consists of a theoretical and a practical part to prove that they have the knowledge and competence to handle such a dog ([see request form](#)). Owners with

previous felonies such as obstruction of law, robbery, violence, cruelty against animals, gun crimes etc. will automatically be denied permission.

If the owner passed the test a certificate will be issued ([see sample](#)).

The theoretical part can either be oral or multiple choice. Knowledge of animal welfare policies; animal-friendly keeping of dogs; basic knowledge of dog behavior (e.g. learning, social behavior, types of aggression and how to handle them; dog training; treatment and care of a dog; handling of everyday situations; German civil and criminal law, and police regulations) will be evaluated.

In the practical part criteria such as obedience, walking on a leash (with and without distraction) in an open field area and in the city, and avoiding and handling of dangerous situations will be evaluated.

For the city of Stuttgart the address and telephone number for the state veterinarian at the Office for Safety and Environment reads as follows:

Amt für öffentliche Ordnung, Lebensmittelüberwachung, Veterinärwesen, Hauptstätter Strasse 58, 70178 Stuttgart, Tel. 0711-216-88590, <http://www.stuttgart.de/item/show/319388/1/dept/309>

The regulations governing the ownership of a dog lawfully deemed dangerous goes on to dictate to owners how they handle their animals in public. If the dog is lost or given into another person's care for more than four weeks, the owner is required to notify the police station at their local residence. In public areas, which include common areas in multi-family housing such as stairwells, dangerous dogs must be on a leash (no longer than 2 meters/6.5 feet) and wear a muzzle. People walking dangerous dogs in public need to be at least 18 years old and physically capable of controlling the dog. Having said this, a person can only walk one dangerous dog at a time. The owner needs to ensure that the dog cannot escape from their residence (proper fencing) and might have to put a sign on the door informing people of that a dangerous dog lives there.

Source: Ministry of Interior of the state of Baden-Württemberg (<http://www.innenministerium.baden-wuerttemberg.de/de/Kampfhunde-Verordnung/83522.html>)

Please also check with your new duty station what the Garrison policy is in regards to dangerous dogs in government housing before you bring the dog to Germany.