

## **Local Policy regarding Dangerous Dog Breeds “Hundeverordnung”**

### **Import Prohibition**

As of April 12, 2001, the importation of four dog breeds – American Pit Bull Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier, Bull Terrier, Staffordshire Bull Terrier – and crosses of these breeds is prohibited in Germany. U.S. personnel who own one of the above breeds cannot bring their pets with them if they PCS to Germany. This ban applies to all US personnel PCSing to Germany.

### **General Information**

There are restrictions for owners of certain breeds of dogs that have been officially designated as dangerous dog breeds in Germany. Some of the regulations are at the national level and there are additional restrictions that have been imposed at the state and local level. As with all other areas of living in Germany, U.S. Forces must comply with local requirements. There are some aspects of local requirements that have been adjusted specifically for U.S. Forces and DA civilians covered under the SOFA agreement. Below are the local requirements and exceptions.

### **Registration Requirements**

The Wiesbaden Ordnungsamt (Security Office) requires that dangerous dog breed owners attached to the U.S. Forces and DA civilians in Wiesbaden register their dogs with the city. This can be done by filling out their [registration form](#) and bringing it to the local Ordnungsamt (Security Office), along with a copy of their orders. The registration fee for these dogs has been waived for U.S. Forces and DA civilians. The address for the Ordnungsamt (Security Office) is:  
Alcide-de-Gasperi-Straße 2, 65197 Wiesbaden.

### **Temperament Test / Competency Test (wesentest / sachkundeprüfung)**

The above no-fee registration is a basic registration. Owners of these dogs with only this type of registration are required to keep these dogs muzzled and on a leash no longer than 2 meters when in public. There is an additional license that may be obtained from the Ordnungsamt (Security Office) if temperament testing requirements are met. The requirement is for a temperament test (wesentest) and an owner competency test (sachkundeprüfung) to be performed with passing results. These tests are performed by a locally licensed tester (see Miscellaneous PDF under Useful Information), and are usually performed together. Fees for the temperament test are variable and are the responsibility of the dog owner. Once passing results are obtained, owners may then bring those results to the Ordnungsamt (Security Office) and apply for a permit to allow the dog to be unleashed and unmuzzled in public. The fee for that permit is 20€.

### **Liability Insurance**

The Wiesbaden Ordnungsamt (Security Office) has exempted the U.S. Forces and DA civilians from the requirement to carry liability insurance on their pets. Although this insurance is not required, it is highly recommended. Pet owners are still held liable for any damage that their dog may inflict on another individual or personal property.

The following is a brief translation of the Hessen security regulation on the holding and keeping of dogs (“Hundeverordnung”) as it applies to individuals covered under the SOFA. **Note\*\*\*Residents of the city of Mainz must adhere to local regulations for the state of Rheinland Pfalz.**

All dogs, including those not classified as “dangerous” are to be held and led in such a manner as to pose no risk.

According to regulations, dogs should not be left unattended outside the fenced area in possession of the holder. Violators are subject to fine under the law.

Only owners who have received permission from the competent local police authority may possess dangerous dogs (Registration with the Wiesbaden Ordnungsamt).

Dangerous dogs are designated in § 2 para. 1 of the state dog law as the breeds below and their crosses with each other or any other breed.

Dangerous dog breeds are:

1. Pitbull Terrier or American Pitbull Terrier
  2. American Staffordshire Terrier or Staffordshire Terrier
  3. Staffordshire Bullterrier
  4. Bullterrier
  5. American Bulldog
  6. Dogo Argentino
  7. Kangal (Karabash)
  8. Caucasian Ovcharka
  9. Rottweiler
- (and any crossbreed or mix of the breeds above)**

A recently added element in the Hessen dangerous breed list is the Rottweiler. The Mastiff, Neapolitan Mastiff and Fila Brasiliano breeds have been removed from the dangerous dog list in Hessen.

Dangerous dogs are also those that have bitten a human or jumped in a dangerous or threatening manner, unless this was done for good reason; have injured another dog through a bite without being attacked themselves; have bitten another dog, despite its having shown recognizable subservient behavior; have bitten or have shown by their behavior that they hunt or attack other animals; or demonstrate behavior that suggests that they will bite people or animals without justification.

*Information taken from the Hessian Dog Regulation (Hundeverordnung) and the following State Government Presidium Web site: [http://www.rp-darmstadt.de/irj/RPDA\\_Internet?cid=2e3c6681097611baa2a3107bb441950d](http://www.rp-darmstadt.de/irj/RPDA_Internet?cid=2e3c6681097611baa2a3107bb441950d)*