



FACT SHEET

DANGEROUS DOG ORDINANCE

The following information will familiarize you with the issues regarding the current German Dangerous Dog Ordinance. The information below is current as of 15 Mar 01.

What is the Dangerous Dog Ordinance?

Numerous states in Germany are developing and implementing ordinances regarding the ownership of dangerous dogs. Any breed of dog may be considered dangerous if the animal, is abnormally aggressive, vicious, quick to attack, bites or aggressively jumps on a person, bites or injures other animals without provocation, or shows a tendency to harass people or other animals.

What breeds of dogs are affected by these ordinances?

Currently, the strictest of these ordinances are in the state German of Bavaria. Bavaria classifies dangerous dogs into two classes. Class 1 dogs include Pitbull Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier, and Staffordshire Bullterrier. Class 2 dangerous dogs are as follows: Bull Mastiff, Bull Terrier, Mastiff, Rhodesian Ridgeback, Dogue de Bordeaux, Tosa Inu, Dogo Argentino, Fila Brasileiro, and Mastino Napoleon. All German states consider all class 1 dogs dangerous, and each state is in various stages of implementation of their ordinances. All cross breed animals with either a class 1 or class 2 breeds must also follow the procedures for compliance.

Who is affected by these ordinances?

All American services members currently living in or moving to Germany who own one of the breeds listed above. Each service member must comply with the most current ordinance in the state of Germany they are assigned.

What are the procedures for compliance?

- Service members must **register** all animal(s) with the military Veterinary Treatment Facility (VTF) **within 14 days of arrival in country**. If the service member owns one of the dangerous dogs the VTF will report the arrival of the animal to local German authorities. If the service member acquires one of these breeds locally, they also have 14 days to register their pet (s).
- All class 1 and class 2 dogs will have to **pass a German administered temperament test**. A list of English speaking testers is available at each local VTF. Until the dog passes the test, it must be leashed and muzzled in public places. Once the dog passes the temperament test, the muzzle requirement is waived. The cost of testing is approximately 300 DM or \$150. If the animal fails the test, the owner and dog can attend an obedience or dog training school to correct deficiencies. Any successive test must be in the presence of the first tester and the second test is considered final.
- The owner must **pass a competence test**. Depending on the level of knowledge of the owner, this test can be administered concurrently or consecutively. If the test is conducted consecutively, the temperament test is conducted first and focuses on the dog's character. If the owner is not currently competent, he or she can attend a training course at a canine school and the test will be re-administered.
- The owner must **acquire pet liability insurance that is valid in Germany**. A list of German insurance companies is available at the local VTF.
- The owner must have **proof of a background check by the local Provosts Marshall office or German Polizei**. The owner must be 18 years of age, have no criminal offenses, no physical disabilities, no alcohol or drug related offenses, not be mentally ill or mentally disabled, and can properly accommodate the animal.
- Submit a **photograph of the animal**. The photo must include the full head and body from the front. A digital photo is preferred but not required.
- A checklist for each animal will be kept at the registering VTF. Once all requirements are completed, the packet will be forwarded to the local German authorities for issuance of the permit. **It is the responsibility of the owner to comply with all the requirements**. The permit will be valid for 2 years from issuance.
- There is no specific order to compliance but it is highly recommended that the service member purchase the insurance first, in case of problems arising during the application process.



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What can happen if the service member does not comply?

If a service member refuses to comply, a direct order to comply can be issued. If compliance is still a problem UCMJ action through the BSB Commander is warranted. German citizens face stiff fines and possibly up to 2 years in jail for failure to comply with these ordinances.

Is there a time frame for compliance?

Currently, the service members in the 104th ASG have until June 1, 2001 to comply. Other ASG's have not set a date as of this printing. Call the local PAO for more information on dates for full compliance. Effective immediately, "Dangerous Dogs" will not be allowed to accompany service members PCSing to USAREUR. 1st PERSCOM will place a statement on service member's PCS orders to emphasize the ban of importation of these dangerous dogs. Dangerous Dogs presently in USAREUR with the exception of the German State of Bavaria, will be allowed to remain and PCS with the service member's normal rotation. USAREUR will contact USAFE and NAVEUR to ensure the same restrictions are met for the respective Services.

Are there other options for service members with these dogs already in the command?

Yes, there are 4 options:

- Take or send the animal back to the United States
- Give or sell the animal to someone in another German state or country where these dogs are allowed
- Place the dog in a certified holding facility or kennel
- Euthanize the dog
- ABANDONMENT IS NOT AN OPTION!

Where can I get more information?

These ordinances are evolving and are subject to change. American service members moving to and those currently stationed in Germany should consider these requirements and the possible consequences of bringing dangerous dogs in to this country. The local VTF has the most current information regarding these ordinances and can be contacted at the following numbers:

Darmstadt Area: Griesheim VTF	DSN: 347-3569	Commercial: 06151-60-3569
Wiesbaden Area: Wiesbaden VTF	DSN: 337-6283	Commercial: 06117-05-6283
Hanau Area: Hanau VTF	DSN: 322-8160	Commercial: 06181-88-8160
Giessen Area: Giessen VTF	DSN: 343-6539	Commercial: 06414-02-6539