



Take your pit bull to the veterinarian for regular check-ups and vaccinations

Pit bulls are naturally susceptible to Parvo, hip and joint issues, skin disorders and cataracts. Annual check-ups and vaccinations are very important.



Provide a nutritionally balanced diet, access to fresh clean water and plenty of exercise

Pit bulls are natural athletes. Just like a human athlete, they need a balanced diet, plenty of fresh water, and regular exercise for a healthy mind and body.



Take your pit bull to obedience

class In the eyes of the general public, pit bulls are menacing creatures. Your pit bull will need to have impeccable manners to overcome the breed's reputation.



Learn how to read your pit bull's behavior signals

If your pit bull shows signs of aggression (nipping, barking, growling and/or lunging at people or other animals), get immediate help from a professional dog trainer.



Be loyal and patient with your pit bull;  
Make sure your expectations are reasonable; and  
Remember the vast majority of behavioral and/or medical problems are caused by the pet owner's lack of knowledge.

## So you own a Pit Bull in Harris County!



## Guide to keeping you and your Pit Bull safe and healthy



Phone: 281-999-3191  
Fax: 281-847-1911  
[www.countypets.com](http://www.countypets.com)



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# So you own a Pit Bull in Harris County!

Pit bulls have a negative reputation as "mean and vicious" dogs who are a "public nuisance".

Let's change that !



Pit bulls are large, energetic, and intelligent terriers. As such, they easily become frustrated, destructive, or anti-social if not given adequate attention or left to their own devices .

Pit bulls require extra care, commitment and time. Use

these steps to ensure your pit bull grows up to be an enjoyable member of your family and community.

 **Outfit your dog with a collar and ID tag that includes your name, address and telephone number**

No matter how careful you are, pit bulls are escape artists. An ID tag will increase the chances of getting your pit bull back.

 **Make sure your pit bull has a dog license and is vaccinated against rabies**

Harris County requires current rabies vaccinations and dog licenses on all dogs and cats. For more information contact HCPH Veterinary Public Health 281-999-3191

 **Never trust your pit bull not to fight or bite**

Even if your pit bull gets along great 99.9% of the time with children and other animals, they are known for aggression. *Never leave your pit bull alone with children or other animals.*



Teach your children to be careful and never touch a dog without adult supervision.

 **Harris County has a leash law. Remember....**

**OFF PROPERTY ...ON LEASH**



Keep in mind pit bulls are "Terriers". They have a high prey drive which means their urge to chase other animals is an inherent trait of the breed. Even if you believe you have full control of your pit bull, you can't predict his/her reaction to a cat, squirrel, or small running child.

 **Keep your pit bull in an enclosure that is escape proof and never allow them to roam free**

Harris County requires dogs and cats to be physically restrained at all times, without access to sidewalks or streets.

"Pit bull proof" your fence. Pit bulls are very strong and resourceful. Pit bulls should be kept in the house in crates when home alone.

 **Spay or neuter your pit bull— Don't Breed**

Altered pit bulls live longer, "happier" and healthier lives. They are more stable and easier to raise when not triggered by their sexual hormones.

