

The Laws and Guideline Apply to Dogs Off-Base in Okinawa SEP 2009

I. Japanese Laws pertaining to dog ownership

- Rabies Prevention Law
Laws pertaining to the control, prevention and eradication of rabies
- Act on Welfare and Management of Animals
Laws pertaining to proper care, welfare and treatment of animals
- Municipal ordinances and codes on animal ownership
Local regulations pertaining to animal ownership

II. Dog owner's duty

1. Owners must register their dogs at local city office and receive a dog registration tag per dog.
2. If a dog registration tag is lost or broken, owners must apply for reissue.
3. All dogs must receive rabies vaccination annually. Vaccination can be done at any veterinary clinics or at the "mobile vaccination clinic" provided by the city governments in April, May and June. For more information about mobile vaccination clinic, contact local city office for time and place.
4. Owners must obtain rabies vaccination tags by showing rabies vaccination certificate at local city office.
5. Do not keep dogs on the loose – always confine them or keep them on leash.
6. Dog registration tag and rabies vaccination tag must be attached to the dog collar.

Failure to follow the above laws may result in fines.

III. Owners of fighting breed and large breed dogs should abide by the following guidelines per Okinawa prefecture

1. Fighting breed and large breed dogs should be kept confined except when being transported, exercised, or trained in a safe area where there is no concern about possibility of harming other people or property.
2. Only persons who can control the dog may bring the dog out of the confined area.
3. A muzzle or other device to prevent bite incidents is required when taking out fighting breed and large breed dogs.
4. Fighting breed and large breed dogs should be kept in cage in principle and placed on leash.
5. If a cage is used, the cage should be of lockable type and the key is controlled by owner or caretaker
6. If a cage is used, the cage should be placed away from public roads and not be easily accessible to other people than the owner and caretakers.
7. Place a notice warning the public of the fighting breed and large breed dogs on the premises. The notice should be visible and noticeable.
8. If the owner does not intend to breed, it is strongly recommended to spay or neuter the dog.

Definition of fighting breeds and large breeds: Fighting breeds include American Pitbull Terrier, American Staffordshire Bull Terrier and Japanese Tosa-ken. Large breed dogs include any breed that is 55cm or greater in height at the wither.

IV. Claiming your dog at Okinawa Animal Protection and Control Center (APCC)

At the shelter, dogs are kept for maximum 5 working days then put down on the following working day. If you claim your dog at AWCC, you must bear the handling charge. Contact APCC for more information including exact amount. The handling charge is only payable in prefectural stamp and not in cash. Prefectural stamp can be purchased on the first floor of Okinawa Public Health Center. Public Health Center is beige, two story building located on the left from the gate of APCC.

Okinawa Prefectural Animal Protection and Control Center

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| 2000 Aza Ozato, Ozato, Nanjo-shi, Okinawa-ken 901-1201 | Phone: 098-945-3043 |
| Miyako Area Miyako Regional Public Health and Welfare Center | Phone: 0980-72-3501 |
| Yaeyama Area Yaeyama Regional Public Health and Welfare Center | Phone: 0980-82-3243 |