Requirements for a Potentially Dangerous Animal Permit

If you have been informed that your animal is a Potentially Dangerous Animal (PDA), you have 5 business days to apply for a PDA permit. The permit can be obtained from the Denver Animal Shelter at 1241 W. Bayaud Ave, Denver, CO 80223. The fee for a PDA permit is $150 per year.

What does my animal need to apply for a PDA permit?
- Certificate/Proof of spay or neuter
- Certificate/Proof of rabies vaccination issued by a licensed veterinarian
- Current City of Denver pet license
- Proof/registration of a microchip

What are the general rules for owning a potentially dangerous animal?
- Current PDA Permit
- Only one potentially dangerous animal is permitted per person and/or household
- Owner must be 18 years or older
- At all times, the animal must have proper and adequate care, food, water, ventilated shelter, and the area must be clean and sanitary.
- If animal is a dog, it is required to have a visible and conspicuous sign with at least 2-inch letters reading “Dangerous Dog on Premises” near each entrance to the property where dog is kept. The sign must also include a symbol sufficient to convey, without the use of words, the message that there is a dangerous dog on the premises and is a potential danger. (See page 3 for examples.)
- Owner must notify Denver Animal Protection (DAP) within 8 hours if:
  - Animal escaped/is not in custody of owner/keeper for any reason, and/or is not physically secured, restrained, or confined and in the custody of a competent adult.
  - Animal has attacked a person or another domestic animal.
- Owner must notify DAP within 24 hours if:
  - Animal has passed away
  - Owner/keeper listed on the PDA permit has changed
  - Primary physical location of animal has changed
- If the owner/keeper information or animal’s primary physical address has changed, owner must notify DAP within 5 days. The fee for any change or amendment to an existing PDA permit is $50.
- Owner/keeper is required to inform any trainer, groomer, pet sitter, veterinarian, boarding facility, or any person handling their animal in any capacity that it has been deemed a potentially dangerous animal by the City and County of Denver.

Additional conditions may be ordered by Denver Animal Protection or the County Court:
- The potentially dangerous animal may not be present, kept, or maintained at any location other than the primary residence that is specified on the PDA permit.
• Animal shall be maintained inside a secure enclosure at all times with the following exceptions:
  o Supervised and attended exercise
  o Veterinary care
  o Being sold or rehomed
  o To comply with any provision of law or directive of an Animal Protection Officer.

• When outside of the proper enclosure for the above circumstances, the animal must be, at all times:
  o Properly muzzled: Animal should not be able to bite through the muzzle
  o Restrained by a substantial chain/leash not to exceed 6-feet long
  o Under the control of an adult who is physically able to restrain the movement of the animal.

• The PDA permit must be renewed every year. If a potentially dangerous animal has been permitted for 36 consecutive months and has not had any complaints or reports of behavior indicating that the animal continues to be a threat to public safety, the owner/keeper may make a written request to Denver Animal Protection to remove the animal’s classification as a potentially dangerous animal. This declassification is done at the sole discretion of Denver Animal Protection.

Requirements for a Dangerous Dog Enclosure

• You are required to build your enclosure within 90 days of your dog being deemed potentially dangerous. Until the enclosure is built and approved by a DAP Animal Protection Officer, the dog must be housed securely inside.

• Enclosure must be approved by a DAP Animal Protection Officer and is subject to random inspections.

• Signs must be clearly visible to the public and must convey, without the use of words, that there is a dog on the premises that is a potential danger. Signs must be placed at every entrance of the property.

• **Framework** — It is important to keep in mind three factors when selecting framework for a chain link fence: gauge (or thickness), diameter of the pipe, and protective coating. The chain link fence framework should be manufactured from steel that has a minimum yield strength of 45,000 lbs per square inch.

• **Sides/Roof** — The sides and top of the enclosure should be made of rigid, 9-gauge steel panels. The panels should be welded or bolted securely to each other at the top and bottom at minimum, every 4 inches.
  o Dogs over 20 pounds: Enclosure must be at least 10ft x 20ft. Heavy-duty chain links should be no larger than 3 inches.
  o Dogs under 20 pounds: Enclosure of at least 10ft x 10ft. Heavy-duty chain links should be no larger than 1 inch.
- Chain link fencing should be at least 9-gauge or thicker

- 2-inch diamond fencing (fabric mesh) must be at least 9-gauge or thicker

- **Base of the Enclosure** — The enclosure should have a minimum 3-inch base of concrete pad or cinderblock with posts and sides bolted securely into the base at least every 8 inches. With a cinderblock base, anchors should be driven into the ground, ensuring the enclosure can not be moved, changed or otherwise tampered with.

- **Gates** — Gates should be made of the same steel panels or heavy-duty chain link as the sides and top of the enclosure. Gate hinges must be securely welded or bolted to both the posts and the gate itself. Gates should have two secure latches at the top and bottom of the gate. One of these latches must be capable of being locked by a padlock midway up the gate.

- **Shade and Shelter** — Part of the shelter must be covered appropriately to provide adequate protection from the elements as required by law (Denver Revised Municipal Code 8-132 (a)). A dog house must be inside of the enclosure with at least one quarter of the enclosure permanently shaded.