

Criminal Defense Lawyer Andrew D. Stine will Fight County Ordinance on Guard Dogs

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Author: [Andrew Stine](#)

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Palm Beach County Board of Commissioners have voted and unanimously passed a new county ordinance on March 15, tightening laws regarding owning and caring for animals. As discussed in a previous blog post "[What the New Animal Cruelty Law Changed](#)," the new minimum standards are causing significant problems among many pet owners.

Guard dogs are a hot topic when discussing the new ordinances passed. Guard dog owners must now have a county permit and register their dogs with animal control. There is now also a mandatory minimum of a 100 square foot enclosure and 50 square feet of living space for each additional dog with a separate shelter with bedding.

Dogs that have not been neutered or spade must be housed separately and if temperatures rise above 85 degrees Fahrenheit, the owner is required to provide relief in the form of air conditioning or electrical fans – these new conditions will prove to be a new and steep expense for guard dog owners everywhere.

Guard dogs must be seen by a licensed veterinarian twice a year, a stressful event for aggressive dogs. The veterinarian will review and approve the dog's condition for fitness and work.

Fighting PBC Commissioners

Diana Perez, co-owner of Broward K-9/Miami K-9 services, has teamed up with criminal defense lawyer [Andrew D. Stine](#) to oppose the proposed changes to the county ordinance. [The law firm of Andrew D. Stine](#) will be fighting this case all the way to the Supreme Court if need be.

These rules are a direct result of the one extreme case last year when 18 guard dogs were seized from a Royal Palm Beach guard dog company.

"It is wrong to assume that the industry itself is cruel," Perez told the commission, according to

The Palm beach Post.

Perez added that visits to the veterinarian cause intense stress among aggressive dogs. Dogs can also eat bedding – a requirement now – which can cause severe health problems.

[The law firm of Andrew D. Stine](#) as well as many guard dog companies including Broward K-9/Miami K-9 services is vehemently opposing this county ordinance. Keep an eye on this one as you may see it end up in front of the Supreme Court.

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