

ONTARIO ADVOCATES' RESPONSE TO BSL

Assessment of the Breed Specific Components of Ontario's Dog Owners Liability Act



“I’m just a Dog” – A Look at the Reality of Breed Specific Legislation

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Much love, Alix

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CHAPTER 1 - INTRODUCTION; HISTORY OF ONTARIO'S BSL

On October 26, 2004, the Ontario government introduced Bill 132 amending the Ontario Dog Owners' Liability Act (DOLA). DOLA passed in the Legislative Assembly as the "Public Safety Related to Dogs Statute Law Amendment Act", on March 1, 2005. This new legislation banned "pit bull" type dogs in Ontario making it an offence to enter the province with any dog deemed to be a "pit bull" type, or even have similar characteristics to the 3 banned breeds of dogs, which are American Staffordshire Terriers, American Pitbull Terriers, and Staffordshire Bull Terriers. Heavy restrictions of grandfathered "pit bull" type dogs remaining in the province included, but were not limited to, mandatory sterilization, muzzle orders, and be walked on a leash of a maximum of 1.8 meters long. The ban officially went into effect on August 29, 2005, and remains in effect to this day.¹

Statistics on Canadian fatal dog attacks have been kept since 1962². Over a 57 year period, there has been sixty three dog related fatalities recorded across Canada, averaging approximately 1.2 fatalities per year. Fifty three of those deaths were children under the age of 10. Out of those fifty three child fatalities there is not one confirmed documented fatality from any of the banned breeds of dog targeted under Ontario's breed specific legislation. ONE is a **confirmed** American Staffordshire Terrier.³

Multiple private members bills were introduced to the Ontario Legislation by Cheri Di Novo, a former NDP MPP. November 18, 2009 Bill 222 was presented, however even though it passed first reading it died soon after when then Premier Dalton McGuinty prorogued parliament on March 4, 2010. On May 10, 2010 Hershey's Bill 60 was presented, once again in an attempt to repeal the BSL portion of the Dog Owners Liability Act (DOLA). Again this bill passed first reading but Premier McGuinty prorogued parliament again, this time calling for an election. The Liberals were re-elected and officially formed a minority government. On November 30, 2011 Hershey's Bill 16, a Tri-Party private members bill, was introduced. This time the bill was supported by members of all three parties. To the delight of Anti-BSL advocates in Ontario, this bill passed first AND second reading on February 23, 2012, and the breed specific portions were voted out of the legislation⁴. May 9th Bill 16 was ordered for third reading. AGAIN, Premier McGuinty prorogued. He then resigned as leader of the liberal party, and with his resignation, Bill 16 died on the order table. This trend continued with bill 112 in October of 2013, and Bill 40 in October of 2016.

Over 74% of recorded fatalities could have been prevented had dogs not been roaming free, had they been in a secure enclosure, or had there been a responsible adult supervising young children. A combination of these facts would have prevented more than 88% of Canadian documented fatalities. When these statistical facts are examined, it becomes clear that a breed or type of dog is not the issue.

Regardless of the type of dog listed in the official statistics for Canadian dog related fatalities, 2 facts remain crucial. First, breed identification is ALWAYS suspect and is very rarely reliable. Second, even if breed identification was accurate and sound, the breed and type of dog will always remain less important than the circumstances surrounding the incident.⁵

Why, then, did the Ontario Provincial Government implement breed specific legislation as a means to improve public safety and reduce vicious or deadly dog attacks? Do governments not realize that any dog can bite in the hands of a reckless and irresponsible owner?

Let's examine the facts and statistics surrounding breed specific legislation, otherwise known as **Panic Policy Making**.

¹ <https://www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca/english/about/pubs/dola-pubsfty/dola-pubsfty.php>

² Please see Annex 2

³ Note that in the case of 7 year old Sharon Reynolds, there was never 100% conclusive evidence of whether or not her death was caused by stab wounds by her mother (who went to prison for the death of her daughter) or if they were caused by a dog, labeled as a "pitbull".

⁴ Please see Annex 3

⁵ <http://www.chicobandido.com/dbrf-canada/>

CHAPTER 2 - THE FACTS VS THE MYTHS

For all Anti-BSL advocates across the world, it is an unfortunate fact that they will all be forced to deal with law enforcement, as well as other parties, who believe some or all of the misinformed beliefs about dogs who fall under the general umbrella term “pit bull”, including any dog with visually similar characteristics. Here are some of the most common myths about “pit bull” type dogs, and the truth behind the science and facts.

1. There is no such breed as a “pit bull”

- The generic term “pit bull” is an umbrella grouping of multiple types of dogs who have similar characteristics such as short fur, a strong muscular build, and a blocky head. The 3 breeds of dogs who are included officially in Ontario under the term “pit bull”, which is mostly used by media, are American Staffordshire Terriers, Staffordshire Bull Terrier, and American Pit Bull Terrier. Unfortunately, due to physical characteristics similar in nature to those mentioned above, the American Bully, American Bulldog, Dogo Argentino, Presa Canario, Cane Corso, and even Labrador Retrievers to name but a few have been targeted under DOLA. Having a description for “pit bull” that is so broad unfortunately means a possibility for dogs with no lineage to any of the above mentioned breeds to be mistakenly included under the umbrella term. It is important to note that in order for a dog to be identified as a pure breed, there must be official documents available from an accredited and recognized kennel club available to prove so.⁶
- As an example to the above statements, the 3 dogs listed below have no lineage to any of the dogs included under the generic term “pit bull”, however due to the clause stating that any dog with similar characteristics are also prohibited under DOLA, they are often included and identified as “pit bulls” in media reporting.



Boxer/Lab cross



Hound/Retriever cross

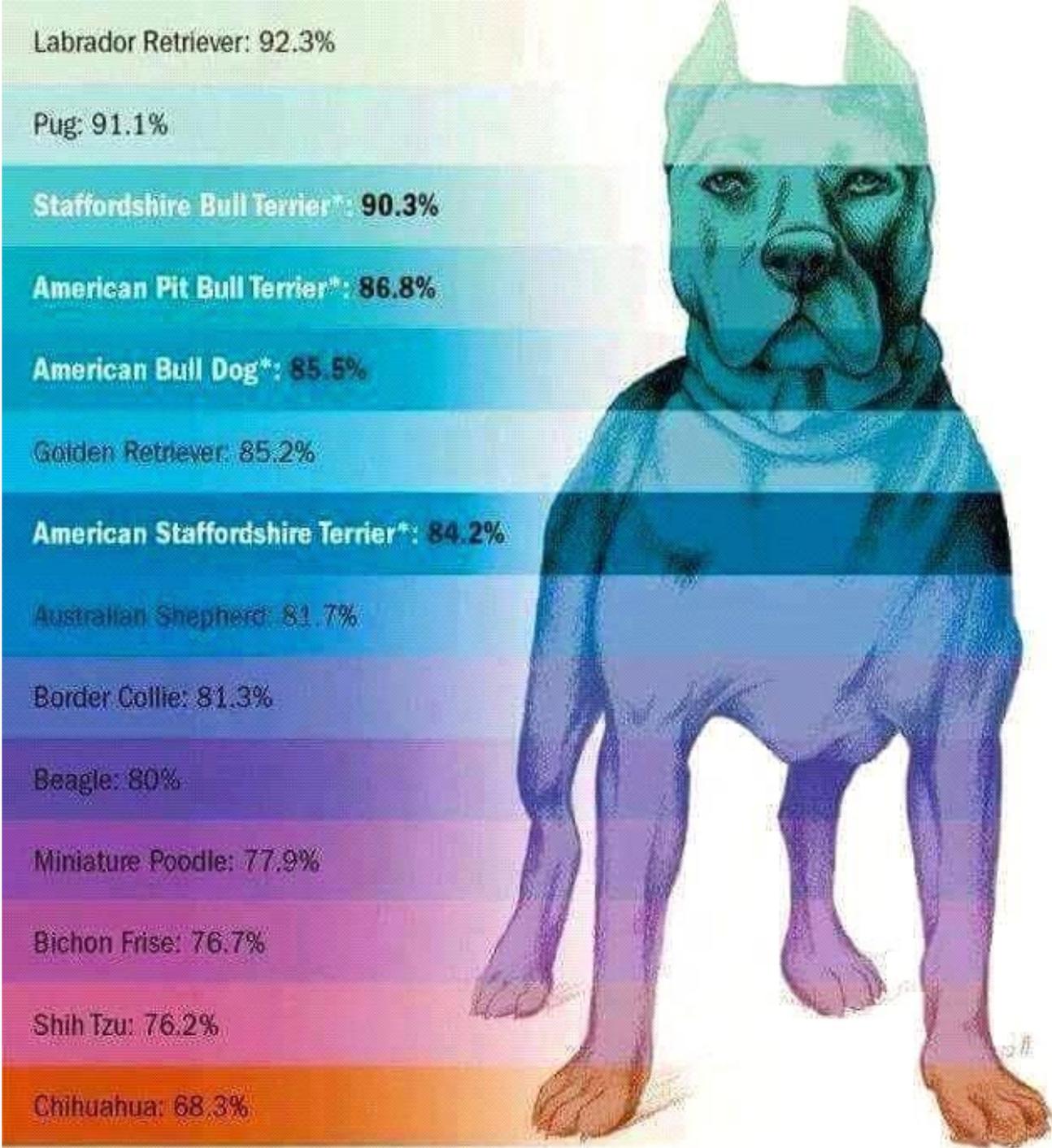


Mastiff/Bulldog

2. “Pit bull” type dogs, or dogs with similar characteristics, are “inherently dangerous” or they are “born mean”

- There is no one breed that exists as a whole that is born inherently bad or evil, the same as no one race of humans is born bad. Dogs rely on humans to guide and teach them right from wrong, and they are a product of a learned behavior. Most of the way that a dog behaves has to do with their upbringing, including socialization from an early age, having a responsible owner, being trained accordingly, and being treated with love and respect. In temperament testing performed by the American Temperament Test Society, “pit bull” type dogs consistently rank in the top 10 every year, and are by far the most tested types of dogs.

⁶ <http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/PDF/A-11.2.pdf>



*Pit bull designation
 Source: American Temperament Test Society, Inc.

2015 American Temperament Testing Results

- Sampling of the American Temperament Test Society Inc. December 2017 results. Some smaller breeds of dogs are included for comparison:

1. Miniature Bull Terrier	100%
2. Bull Terrier	91.6%
3. Staffordshire Bull Terrier	90.9%
4. Presa Canario	90.2%
5. Dog Argentino	88.9%
6. American Pit Bull Terrier	87.4%
7. American Bulldog	86.9%
8. American Staffordshire Terrier	85.5%
9. Rottweiler	84.7%
10. Chihuahua	69.6%
11. Shetland sheepdog	68.9%
12. Scottish Terrier	65.7%
13. Bearded Collie	56.9%

<https://atts.org/breed-statistics/>

- For further reference please visit the American Temperament Test Society <https://atts.org/breed-statistics/statistics-page1/>, and the position statement of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals <http://www.aspca.org/about-us/aspca-policy-and-position-statements/position-statement-pit-bulls>.

3. Pit bull type dogs do not have aggression bred into them

- There is no one breed that exists as a whole that is born inherently bad or evil, then same as no one race of humans is born bad. Like humans, dogs have to be taught this behavior. Most of the way that a dog behaves has to do with their upbringing, including socialization from an early age, responsible ownership, appropriate training and being treated with love and respect. In the case of “pit bull” type dogs, a type of dog that was originally created to be especially gentle with people, virtually every instance of a “pit bull” type dog who display any type of animal or human aggression are victims of one or more of the following: poor breeding practices, lack of training, and/or irresponsible ownership.
- Agustin Fuentes, Professor of Anthropology at the University of Notre Dame states that: “Despite popular notions that certain genes or genetic elements control or regulate the appearance and intensity of aggressive behaviors, there is no evidence for any one-to-one genetic controls, nor is there evidence for certain molecules or systems in the body that predetermine aggressive outcomes. There is no gene or system in the body that can be identified as ‘for aggression’. While it appears clear that genetic variation in neurotransmitters and hormones can be involved in the ways in which we express aggressive behavior, there is no direct or causal link. Our genes cannot make us aggressive.”

- There is no gene that exists within DNA that predetermines aggression. The part of the brain associated with aggression is controlled by chemical levels that rise and fall as a reaction to external factors. For example, a bad mood is not hereditary, it has to do with different situations that trigger an emotion in one particular circumstance. There is no scientific evidence that “pit bull” type dogs are born with higher levels of these chemicals than other breeds. It is important to note that the most aggressive dogs can have perfect tempered puppies. There is no recipe available to breed an “aggressive dog”. The social and physical environments are always the main factors.⁷⁸⁹

4. “Pit bull” type dogs have massive jaw strength and have locking jaws

- According to Dr. I Lehr Brisbin of the University of Georgia:
“In the studies which have been conducted of the structure of the skulls, mandibles and teeth of “pit bull” type dogs show that, in proportion to their size, their jaw structure and thus its inferred functional morphology, is no different than that of any breed of dog. There is absolutely no evidence for the existence of any kind of ‘locking mechanism’ unique to the structure of the jaw and/or teeth of the American Pit Bull Terrier.” It has, in fact, been scientifically proven that it is impossible to have a locking jaw in any breed of dog, regardless of the size and structure.¹⁰
- The strength of a “pit bull” type dog’s jaw is grossly exaggerated in media reporting. Some people have gone so far as to state that the jaw pressure of a shark is less than that of a “pit bull” type dog. That is completely untrue, as the average jaw pressure of a bull shark is 1250 pounds per square inch (psi), and a great white shark is on average 669 psi. Kangal Dogs (a member of the Mastiff breed) have the strongest jaw pressure recorded in domestic dogs, averaging at an approximate measure of 743 psi. Other large breeds of dogs include English Mastiffs, who come in at 552 psi, Dogo Argentinos, who come in at 500 psi, Rottweilers at 328 psi, German Shepherds at 238 psi and American Pit Bull Terriers at 235 psi. The jaw pressure of an American Pitbull Terrier is scientifically proven to be far less than that of a shark. For reference, the average human adult male has a 150 psi bite.¹¹

5. “Pit bull” type dogs are over –represented in media coverage compared to other dogs

- Media outlets of all kinds are 85% more likely to publish a story where the term “pit bull” can be used in the headline than a canine story involving dogs of any other breed.¹² Unfortunately more often than not, media and law enforcement are quick to assume the lineage of the dog without any further gathering of facts or evidence, leading to falsely portraying the dog in question as being a “pit bull”. This results in augmenting the perception that “pit bull” type dogs are involved in negative incidents more often than other types of dogs, further damaging their reputation and creating a false sense of fear in the unsuspecting, and oftentimes misinformed, general public. It is a proven fact that having the catch phrase “pit bull” included in media reporting will generate a story that will be reported on an average of 200 times, however in cases where the term cannot be used, the incident in question is rarely reported on, if at all. On the rare occasions that an incident involving a dog that has not been described as a “pit bull”, the breed of dog is virtually never mentioned in the headlines, and seldom even referred to in the report itself.

⁷ http://www.salon.com/2012/05/28/is_aggression_genetic/

⁸ <https://positively.com/victorias-blog/the-truth-about-pit-bulls/>

⁹ <https://animalfarmfoundation.org/2013/10/09/a-closer-look-at-all-dogs-are-individuals-infographic/>

¹⁰ http://www.dogwatch.net/myths/lock_jaw.html

¹¹ <https://www.insidedogsworld.com/dog-bite-explained-top-20-dogs-with-the-strongest-bite-force/>

¹² <http://www.defendingdog.com/defending-dogs-lives-from-infections/>

- The following screen shot comes from Denver, who has one of the longest standing BSL regulations in North America, as well as one of the highest bites per capita in the United States:

“Animal control officers across the country have told the ASPCA that when they alert the media to a dog attack, news outlets respond that they have no interest in reporting on the incident unless it involved a pit bull. A quantitative study by the [National Canine Resource Council](#) of dog-bite reportage in a four-day period proves that anti-pit bull bias in the media is more than just a theory — it’s a fact.

August 18, 2007 — A Labrador mix attacked a 70-year-old man, sending him to the hospital in critical condition. Police officers arrived at the scene and the dog was shot after charging the officers. This incident was reported in one article in the local paper.

August 19, 2007 — A 16-month-old child received fatal head and neck injuries after being attacked by a mixed-breed dog. This attack was reported on twice by the local paper.

August 20, 2007 — A six-year-old boy was hospitalized after having his ear torn off and receiving a severe bite to the head by a medium-sized, mixed-breed dog. This incident was reported in one article in the local paper.

August 21, 2007 — A 59-year-old woman was attacked in her home by two pit bulls and was hospitalized with severe, but not fatal, injuries. This attack was reported in over 230 articles in national and international newspapers, as well as major television news networks including CNN, MSNBC and Fox.

<http://blogs.denverpost.com/fetch/2010/07/18/the-media-takes-its-lumps-over-reporting-about-pit-bulls/1387/>

- The book, “[The Pit Bull Placebo: The Media, Myths and Politics of Canine Aggression](#),” argues that “our perceptions about the nature and behavior of dogs has been influenced and shaped by persons and organizations who often times disseminate information about dog attacks which is tailored to further an agenda unrelated to the improvement of the human/dog bond.” The book further argues: “We have come to be in the midst of a social hysteria about pit bulls because we have abandoned centuries-old common sense and reasoning and have been duped by inaccurate reporting from a media that thrives on sensationalism ... There is a disturbing scarcity of accurate information and investigation done on the real causes and reasons for these incidents.”

CHAPTER 3: THE RESILIENCE OF “PIT BULL” TYPE DOGS

“Pit Bull” type dogs have demonstrated countless times that they can be rehabilitated even after living in the most excruciating circumstances. We will examine 2 high profile cases: The case of the sick and disturbed Michael Vick in 2007, and the case of the Chatham 21 in 2016.

Michael Vick and the “Vicktory Dogs”¹³

- In 2007, Michael Vick, an NFL player, was tried and convicted for his heinous role in funding and organizing a dog fighting operation. These dogs were tortured, forced to fight, beaten, abused, and severely neglected. Yet once rescued, 48 of the 51 dogs (94.1%) were completely rehabilitated and placed in loving families or no kill animal sanctuaries to live out their lives in peace and safety. Not one of the dogs that were rehabilitated has ever had an incident reported of aggression of any kind, and are being successfully used in a multitude of ways from family pets to therapy dogs. To the disgust of animal advocates around the world, Vick was not charged for his direct involvement in the animal cruelty, rather was solely charged for financing the operation.¹⁴
- Of the 3 dogs that were unable to be rehabilitated, two died due to their extreme injuries while in veterinary care, and one was humanely euthanized by the ASPCA as she was sadly deemed as too emotionally and physically damaged to be rehabilitated.¹⁵
- It was very apparent to rescuers that the biggest issue with these dogs, as with most dogs used for fighting, was fear, not aggression. However, even after all the suffering and abuse they had endured in their short lives, they quickly learned to trust again and showed their true colors: loyal, loving and incredibly forgiving. Several Vicktory Dogs went on to become registered service dogs.
- Sadly the Vicktory dogs are starting to pass on, as their life span has reached its end. These dogs have been loved by many, and people across the world watched them grow. They served as true “ambassadors to the breed”.¹⁶
- There is a documentary available on Netflix that chronicles the lives of these dogs, called “The Champions”. You can find the link here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z-KoEIPTRMQ>

The “Chatham 21” Dogs

- In October of 2015, there were 31 “pit bull” type dogs seized from a home near Chatham, Ontario after tips of alleged dog fighting. The raid led to animal cruelty, drug and firearm related charges against 5 people, and the animals were transferred to the Care of the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (OSPCA). This did not include the 11 puppies that were born while in custody with the OSPCA, who were all sent to rescue in Florida.
- Of these 31 dogs, 7 were deemed to be candidates for rehabilitation and 3 dogs were unfortunately euthanized for medical reasons at the recommendation of the OSPCA. Unbelievably the OSPCA, the people who made a vow to help all animals in need, filed a court application to have the remaining 21 dogs euthanized due, in large part, to Ontario’s breed specific legislation. So instead of fighting for these innocent dogs, the people who vowed to protect animals in need were now seeking to destroy them due to nothing more than an appearance, not behavior, based law.
- International outrage set in as these dogs were held in captivity as “evidence” for more than 19 long months. A social media campaign launched by Dog Tales Rescue and Sanctuary located in King City, Ontario, helped

¹³ <https://nypost.com/2017/07/08/how-michael-vicks-pit-bulls-changed-animal-rescue-forever/>

¹⁴ It is important to note that prior to being adopted out, each dog was required to become certified as a Certified Canine Good Citizen by the American Kennel Club <https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/training/training-for-the-canine-good-citizen-test/>

¹⁵ <https://www.thedodo.com/michael-vick-dogs-the-champions-1652308280.html>

¹⁶ http://www.huffingtonpost.com/jacqueline-johnson/giving-michael-vicks-former-dogs-a-fighting-chance-changed-the-face-of-animal-welfare_b_7020362.html

garner tremendous public support to save the lives of these dogs who were nothing more than victims of human cruelty. Celebrities such as Don Cherry, Paris Hilton, Richard Branson and Enrique Iglesias all voiced their concerns and urged for rehabilitation rather than euthanization.

- For the 21 dogs remaining in OSPCA custody (who became known as “the Chatham 21”), 3 dogs were reportedly humanely euthanized, however there was never a justification provided to any of the animal rights groups trying desperately to save their lives. The remaining 18 dogs, saved from the fighting ring originally deemed to be “unfit for rehabilitation”, were finally released in May of 2017 to the amazing people with Dog Tales and subsequently taken to the Florida-based rescues “Dogs Playing for Life” and “Pit Sisters”. All 36 of the dogs sent to Florida (including the 7 dogs seized in connection to the case, the 11 puppies and the remaining 18 dogs of the “Chatham 21”) are demonstrating the resilience of dogs to severe neglect and abuse, showing signs of being “normal dogs” who were nothing more than victims of disgusting animal cruelty, and being adopted out to loving families.
- One of the most famous of the Chatham dogs, commonly now referred to as the “Canada Rescue Dogs”, is Dallas, who is a narcotics detection K9 with the Honaker, VA police department. Professionally trained by Throw Away Dogs Project, which is an agency in the state of Philadelphia who’s mission statement is “repurpose, train, and relocate “unique” dogs to positively impact our communities” and has placed 26 dogs with law enforcement agencies in the last 7 years, Dallas is now not only a loving member of his family, with lots of canine siblings to play with at home, he is also a vital part of his community in keeping drugs off the streets.¹⁷

In the case of these two examples, one question that needs to be asked is this: Why were these dogs deemed to be a dangerous menace to society in Ontario, and incredible loving dogs who deserved a chance to be rehabilitated from human failure by another? Does this mean that some organizations are basing their decisions on visualization or media hype only and not on the actual behavior of the dogs themselves? Is it possible that, due to public misconceptions, Ontario is now convinced that “fear” and “aggression” are one and the same? The fact that the Victory and the Chatham dogs have all gone on to live normal lives in loving homes should make even the biggest skeptic question the morals and logic behind such a cruel and unjust law.

Police Forces using “Pit Bull” type dogs in K9 Units

There are more and more police forces through the United States who are using rescued “pit bull” type dogs from shelters as their K9 unit dogs. This is proving to not only be a way to help promote a positive image for an extremely misunderstood type of dog, it is helping reduce the ever growing number of dogs in need in local shelters. “Pit bull” type dogs are being successfully used with police forces to detect narcotics, bombs, as well as tracking missing persons/criminals on the run. They are not typically used to “attack” those who are being pursued, as it has been reported that it is very difficult to actually get them to be aggressive towards people.^{18,19}

Using rescued “pit bull” type dogs saves tens of thousands of dollars of tax payer money as well. For example, a pure breed German Shepherd police dog can cost up to \$15,000.00 to purchase and train. A rescued “pit bull” type dog is often less than \$300.00 to adopt, and have been in general deemed extremely easy to train by their K9 training officers due to their natural will and desire to please their owners.

Another excellent documentary on the true resilience of “pit bull” type dogs is the YouTube video, “Beyond the Myth”.²⁰ This is one of the most complete documentaries providing evidence of the repercussions of BSL that currently exists.

¹⁷ <https://wcyb.com/news/virginia-news/pit-bull-rescued-from-canadian-dog-fighting-ring-becomes-honaker-k-9>

¹⁸ <http://dogtime.com/trending/34961-police-departments-turn-rescue-pit-bulls-new-k9-units>

¹⁹ <http://www.lifewithdogs.tv/2016/02/pit-bulls-are-the-new-breed-of-police-dogs/>

²⁰ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_S4-oOR_J-o

CHAPTER 4 - THE COURTNEY TREMPE CASE

Inquest and Coroner's Jury Recommendations for Dog Education/Legislation and the comparison to Quebec's decision to not implement a province wide BSL

On April 29th, 1998, Courtney Trempe was at a neighbor's house in Stouffville, Ontario, playing in the back yard with friends. That's when the neighbor's dog – a 60 kilogram Bull Mastiff – attacked. The dog pierced her carotid artery and crushed her windpipe. Sadly, Courtney died from her injuries, and the dog responsible for the attack was destroyed. Unbelievably, the owner, a Toronto lawyer named Todd Reybroek, was never held accountable for the death of the child.

The Trempe's say that this dog had a history of attacking people, they even hired a private investigator who found 16 witnesses to back up their theory; witnesses they say that the police should have easily also been able to find. They wanted the jury to find that their daughter's death was by homicide – a purely symbolic ruling as a coroner's inquest can't assign blame.

For point of reference, let us compare the situation to one that is recognized by the law as homicide: drinking and driving. If you are caught drinking and driving, you are charged with criminal negligence and you are then charged and/or sent to prison. Death by a drunk driver is homicide, with a prison sentence of 10 years. The driver knew of the danger, ignored it, and chose a dangerous behavior and action instead. The owner of the above mentioned Bull Mastiff knew of the aggression that his dog had, and also that his dog was strong and powerful. A responsible owner would have ensured that that dog was closely watched and not permitted to cause an issue surrounding public safety.

The point is this: had Mr. Reybroek been guilty of homicide due to a drinking and driving incident, he would have been sentenced to a minimum of 10 years in prison for the death of Courtney; instead, his dog, who had a history of violent behavior, viciously attacked and killed a child and he was not held accountable for her death. The dog, however, was disposed of.

Nowhere in any of the jury's inquest into the death of Courtney Trempe, nor in any of the case findings, or coroner's recommendations, was there ever mention of a type of dog being banned due to breed or appearance. **Also a note of extreme importance: the Trempe family themselves came out AGAINST BSL, stating that the breed of dog is not responsible for the tragedy; it was the individual dog that needed to be dealt with.** The family lobbied for "Courtney's Law", in honor of their beloved daughter. The outlines of "Courtney's Law" protected citizens from all dog attacks, regardless of the breed, by targeting a dog's previous inappropriate behavior and the owner's inability to properly train, contain and socialize their dog.

During the consultations for Bill 132, Donna Trempe, Courtney's mother, made a statement to the courts:

"In my opinion, Bill 132 has its good points and its bad points. A bull mastiff, not a pit bull, killed my daughter. Rottweilers killed a three-year-old boy in Vancouver. Presa Canarios killed a woman in San Francisco. Even small dogs such as west highland white terriers and cocker spaniels have been recorded as killer dogs. Am I against dogs? Not in any way. I love dogs and own a German Shepherd [another powerful breed of dog formerly targeted by BSL]. What I am against is irresponsible owners. I agree with the Humane Society of Canada that banning only pit bulls will not solve the dog biting problem."

The list below is the recommendations that the jury made in the inquest to Courtney Trempe's death. After they expressed their deepest sympathy to the family, and all others involved in the tragedy, and for educational purposes as well as the reduction in dog bite incidents, the jury recommended:²¹

- The Ministry of Education require all Ontario Boards of Education to implement a student education program in elementary schools for the prevention of dog bites and the better understanding of animal behavior. It is

²¹ <https://ward9.ca/coroners-jury-recommendations-for-dog-education/legislation/>

our suggestion that the Department of Public Health be responsible for implementing this program by making regular visits to the individual schools;

- The media (children's television programming) include programs teaching young children recommended behavior towards the treatment of dogs;
- The media, with each article about a vicious dog attack, print a small informative TIP from a recognized agency relative to the incident (i.e. if approached by a strange dog - stand still, talk, back away);
- All municipalities provide resources for an Education Officer to work in the community educating both children and adults about responsible pet ownership and the prevention of dog bites;
- Inasmuch as infants and young children are a high-risk category with regard to serious dog bite injury, that the Ontario College of Family Physicians undertakes to educate their members in this matter. Their responsibility would include the education of parents regarding the safeguarding of their children from dog bites and recognizing the danger of leaving children alone with any dog;
- Because veterinarians are well placed to educate dog owners in responsible ownership, we recommend that the Veterinarians Association advise their members to educate dog owners about dog bite prevention, dog behavior, and the benefits of neutering and spaying;
- In order to educate dog owners, the Provincial Government consider the preparation of information regarding selection, training and responsible dog ownership. This information along with the distribution of the Dog Owner's Liability Act should be distributed by the veterinarians and animal shelters to their clients;²²
- A website be designed as a tool for better understanding and education for all dog owners (responsible ownership, government regulations, how to choose your pet, listing of breeders, agencies and associations and teaching children safe behavior around dogs);
- Information about responsible dog ownership be provided with the purchase for dogs from breeders and pet store owners;
- All dog owners be required to post a provincial standard sign indicating that a dog lives on the premises;
- The Provincial Government and other interested agencies and municipalities promote ideas that foster public education like the proposed Dog Bite Prevention Week and that pamphlets be offered on one's rights and responsibilities when it comes to pets;
- All dog acquirers be required to take a course in pet ownership and responsibility; and
- Veterinarians be trained with courses in animal behavior and regularly update themselves in this area with recognized institutions in veterinary medicine and that a recognized questionnaire be developed by the Canadian Association to aid vets in identifying potential problems with dogs or their owners.²³

Now for the legislative changes recommended by the jury:

**Note that these recommendations were made after the revelation that the present system of reliance of Municipal by-laws of itself is inadequate to safeguard the public in the matter of dog bites. The problems are regarding the enforcement of restraint orders from one municipality to another, as well as problems regarding the process of implementation of restraint orders and lack of uniform terminology. These recommendations were made in order to discourage irresponsible dog ownership, and to provide thorough and equal protection of the public across the province as a whole from an individual dog, regardless of breed, who has bitten or attacked.*

- The Dog Owner's Liability Act (DOLA) be amended to allow for ex parte hearings in which the court may order that an owner of a dog take steps for more effective control of a dog or may order that a dog be destroyed;

²² Note that the reference to the Dog Owner's Liability Act in this instance did NOT include breed specifics in the legislation

²³ To review this list please visit <http://dogownersrights.com/reference/trempe.htm>

- The DOLA be amended to allow a judge to order that a dog be confined or restrained by leash or muzzle when on the owner's property or in public pending the determination of whether a dog is dangerous or pending any appeal of such a determination;
- The DOLA be amended to specifically identify, for the benefit of judges, methods by which dogs may be restrained (leashing, muzzling, or providing a dog enclosure of a specified size);
- The DOLA be amended to provide for an automatic restraint order for dogs that are ordered by a judge to be destroyed;
- Fines of the DOLA be substantially increased, as an economic impact can be an effective deterrence to irresponsible dog ownership;
- People who are found liable under the DOLA be prohibited from owning another dog for a period of time designated by the court; and
- The DOLA be amended to prohibit the training of guard dogs and attack dogs other than for the purpose of ownership by police or a registered security agency and that they only be housed in totally secured areas or taken out in the hands of an authorized and certified person.

It is also worth noting that there has been fourteen dog related fatalities recorded in Ontario since 1962. Twelve attacks were children under the age of ten who were left unsupervised around dogs; one attack involved a tragic accident with a family dog with no vicious nature involved; and in the two incidents involving adults, it was proven that the dog was either provoked to the point of attack, or was trying to protect its owners (as marked below):

- In 1962 a 6-year-old girl was walking home and attacked by a pack of stray dogs, nothing was done;
- In 1966 a 20-month old girl was killed by a Golden Retriever who was a family farm dog, nothing was done;
- In 1968 a 6-year-old boy was wandering too close to an unidentified breed, nothing was done;
- In 1979 a 9-year-old boy got too close and was killed during a fight between guard dogs of unidentified breed and strays, nothing was done;
- In 1989 a 4-year-old boy was killed on a campground by a Rottweiler and Doberman attack, nothing was done;
- In 1990 a 1-month-old girl was killed by a Chow Chow (*note that this was not an attack, but was rather an unfortunate accident involving a family dog who overturned the baby bassinet*);
- In 1994 a 17-month-old girl got in the middle of a male dog and a female in heat, and was killed by a Maremma Sheepdog, nothing was done;
- In 1995 a 22-year-old male was killed by an American Staffordshire Terrier (evidence proved that dog was provoked by drunken roommate), nothing was done;
- In 1997 a 7-year-old girl was killed by an American Pitbull Terrier, although there was disagreement if this was actually a dog related fatality (bites) or a homicide by the child's mother (stab wounds). Mother was cleared of the incident in 2001, however there is still speculation surrounding these results, nothing was done;
- In 1997 a 3-year-old male was killed by a Rottweiler who was unsupervised and had broken loose from his chain, nothing was done;
- In 1998 an 8-year-old female (Courtney Trempe) was killed by a Bull Mastiff while playing in a neighbor's yard, nothing was done;
- In 2003 a 4-year-old female was killed by a family dog who was Rottweiler/Lab cross, nothing was done;
- In 2006 a 77-year-old male was killed by a Jack Russell/Border Collie cross, (owner was playfully wrestling with his wife, the dog, in protection mode, attacked him and bit his throat), nothing was done;
- In 2007 a 17-month-old girl was killed by a Rottweiler/Shepherd cross who belonged to her grandparents, nothing was done;

Similarly, in Quebec, there were seven fatal dog related incidents between the years of 1979 and 2016. Four of these fatalities involved a Husky, one involved a German Shepherd, one was a mix breed of unknown lineage, and one was an American Staffordshire Terrier mix. It was only when the American Staffordshire Terrier was involved that any action was started to “help keep the community safe from dog related incidents”.

Below is the list of dog related fatalities for Quebec between the years of 1979 and 2016:

- In 1979 a 3-month-old child was killed by a neighbor’s dog (Husky), nothing was done;
- In 1988 a 17-month-old child was killed by a neighbor’s dog (German Shepherd), nothing was done;
- In 1997 a 6-year-old child was killed (breed unknown), nothing was done;
- In 1999 a 2-year-old child was killed (Husky), nothing was done;
- In 2010 a 21-day-old baby was killed (Husky), nothing was done;
- In 2014 a 4-year-old child was killed (Husky), nothing was done;
- In 2016 a 55-year-old woman was killed (American Staffordshire Terrier), and BSL is instantly tabled and passed shortly afterward’s in the city of Montreal²⁴.

Should we, therefore, assume that the life of a 55-year-old woman was more important than the six Quebec children before her? Or, similar to the reaction of Ontario politicians from 2004, were there certain Quebec politicians who saw something to gain by this tragedy simply because it implicated a dog who was a “pit bull”? Similar to the dog who killed Courtney Trempe, the dog involved in the 2016 Quebec incident had a dangerous history. He had two attacks that were previously reported, which means that this dog should have been dealt with by laws already in place to deal with dangerous dogs. Unlike the Mastiff in Ontario’s owner, this owner, Junior Frontal, had a criminal record for violent crimes and domestic abuse, again not an indication of an unworthy animal owner, but combined with the fact that the dog had attacked twice before, the details paint a picture of an unhealthy situation which has nothing to do with the breed of the dog. It is also worth nothing, similar as to what we saw in the Trempe case, Mr. Frontal was not held criminally responsible for the death of his neighbor, Ms. Christine Vadnais. No charges were laid, and he is free to own another dog of his choosing at any point, which he currently does.

The relevance and comparison of the 2 provinces and the dog related incidents causing fatalities comes in here: In the findings into the Trempe inquest, there was NO MENTION of any breed specific recommendations to improve public safety, and NONE of the jury recommendations were taken into consideration when there were amendments made to the DOLA in 2005. A child died due to the injuries sustained from a dog with known behavioral issues, and nothing was done. There were, in fact, 12 instances of children being attacked and killed by dogs in Ontario between the years of 1962 and 2018, and in each case NOTHING WAS DONE.

So the end question is simple: why is it that in 2004, the life of a Toronto man with serious, but non-fatal injuries caused by a dog who was typed as a “pit bull” caught the attention of the media, and was deemed as more important than the **deaths** of 12 children before him? And why, in the Montreal case, were the dog related fatalities of 6 children by breeds identified as non “pit bull” type dogs, virtually ignored, and nothing was implemented until a 55-year-old woman was attacked and killed by a dog who had a dangerous history, an irresponsible owner, and was labeled as a “pit bull? The fact remains this: if the laws in place to protect the public against dangerous dogs had been followed in either of these cases, the tragedies would almost definitely have been avoided. Instead, the government officials in both situations decided instead to instate new “panic policy” in the form of the ever ineffective BSL.

²⁴ Note that the Montreal ban has since been lifted, and while the province of Quebec considered a province wide ban, consultations proved that BSL would be ineffective in keeping the population of Quebec safe from dog related incidents.

No matter what the excuses are that are provided by politicians who create these laws, one thing will never change: you will NOT find a municipality that has successfully implemented BSL to reduce dog bites or dog attacks, as there is simply none that exist. Not ONE successful precedent. Period.

CHAPTER 5: FEAR MONGERING AND FALSE REPORTING

Unfortunately there are certain groups and individuals who are anti “pit bull” lobbyists and seek to capitalize on the disproportionate tread some people have toward dogs; especially when it comes to dogs deemed as “pit bull” type. They persist in making grossly exaggerated claims about the severity and nature of “pit bull” attacks versus those of other breeds or types of dogs. They expose victims’ identification, often unknowingly to them, and use vivid descriptions of victims’ injuries to forward personal theories and agendas. Normally this is done using graphic images of dog attacks and almost always involves a child. These images are overly gruesome and the dog in question is **always** deemed to be at fault. These claims and the visual representations are produced by individuals and special interest groups with no real knowledge of the actual occurrence nor do they have the professional experience to properly analyze fatal dog bite injuries. More often than not, there is not a photo included, especially when the true lineage of the dog is in question, and more importantly is not deemed to be a “pit bull”.

The National Canine Research Council (NCRC), therefore, felt compelled to address these tactics and claims with studies and scientific research. The NCRC investigated and analyzed injuries from every fatal dog attack for which data is available. It was concluded that no breed of dog has a particular method of attack or inflicts an exclusive type of injury. Claims that one breed of dog inflicts injuries unlike other breeds or types of dog were determined to have no scientific merit. In comparison to fatal injuries causing death in the US, the NCRC found serious injurious dog bites to be relatively uncommon, and dog bite related fatalities are very rare.²⁵

The NCRC has done extensive research on the implications of media reports regarding dog bite incidents. It has been discovered that the most common approach of research to retroactively study canine bite incidents has been the use of previous media reporting. This approach sacrifices accuracy, reliability, and completeness. Although it is unethical to knowingly cite flawed or unproven data, there are many in media who still choose this route due to easy access, lack of print space, lack of time to conduct proper research, and cost effectiveness. This results in documented literature often lacking in real facts or evidence.

It has been statistically proven, according to caninejournal.com²⁶, one is 200 times more likely to die by taking aspirin and 5 times more likely to be stuck by lighting than to be fatally attacked by a dog. Sadly many mainstream media outlets site unreliable sources and web pages that do not have factual, statistical or scientific evidence to back up their claims and instead proceeds with what garners attention; the use of graphic images. Veterinarians, animal behavior experts, and professional dog trainers all state there is no existing evidence a “pit bull” type dog is more dangerous than any other type of dog. Any attempts to say otherwise are simply not true. If media were to use only reputable, accredited, peer reviewed sources for information on “pit bull” type dogs, they would find no existing evidence to back up the claims put forward by anti-“pit bull” lobbyists who focus on specific incidents, and conclude all dogs similar in nature or appearance will do the same. Focusing on isolated incidents involving one particular type of dog is no more logical than focusing on an isolated incident involving a certain race or religion of a human and blaming all for same.

Dog related fatalities are at an extremely low level compared to many other types of fatal injuries. Therefore, it is difficult to comprehend why so much media attention is garnered to these incidents when compared to that of other fatalities. The image below clearly demonstrates the odds of being killed by a dog, in comparison to other causes of fatal injuries, is indeed rare. According to the statistics below, there were 129,560 injury based fatalities recorded in the United States in 2014; only 40 or 0.001%, involved a dog of ANY breed or type.

²⁵ <https://www.nationalcanineresearchcouncil.com/injurious-dog-bites/dog-bite-related-fatalities>

²⁶ <https://www.caninejournal.com/>

Comparison of Injury Fatalities in the United States - 2014	
Unintentional Poisoning Fatalities	42,032
Unintentional Motor Vehicle Traffic Fatalities	33,736
Unintentional Fatalities from Falls	31,959
Homicide	15,809
Unintentional Fatalities from Drowning	3,406
Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities	1,546
Unintentional Pedestrian Fatalities	1,032
Dog Bite-Related Fatalities	40

**note that no breed specifics were available for this study*

In summary, there is no peer reviewed, identifiable, or reliable evidence that demonstrates any link between a certain breed of dog and fatal dog related incidents. The only statistics that state otherwise come from groups with a very specific and well known agenda, which is sadly to eradicate the “pit bull” from the world (e.g. Animals 24/7, dogsbite.org, and National Pit Bull Victims Awareness group). It has, however, been proven that children and the elderly seem to be more at risk, which could be alleviated by a responsible adult’s presence or supervision. Responsible ownership is key to the prevention of dog bite related fatalities and individual owners should be those who are held legally accountable for the behavior of their dogs.²⁷

²⁷ <https://www.nationalcanineresearchcouncil.com/research-library/dog-bite-related-fatalities-literature-review>

CHAPTER 6: THE EFFECTS OF PANIC POLICY MAKING

Despite the advancement of animal rights and animal welfare in law and ideology, there are three political preconditions that influence the adoption of legislated breed bans. First, the supporters of the legislation adapt to the traditional legal definition of “animals are property”, regardless of the fact that bills such as Quebec’s Bill 54²⁸ exist declaring animals as sentient beings. Second, a breed ban is a form of policy making that is often more of a symbolic reaction for an incident involving emotional fear or anxiety. It addresses the possibility or potential of perceived catastrophic injuries, and falsely promises to provide reassurance of public safety and security. Finally, the adoption of breed bans almost always occurs in a relatively unusual political context. These bans seem to appear in circumstances marked by great emotionalism and limited inquiry into the sources and probability of risk. There is also very limited, if any, consideration of alternative policies done prior to implementation.

Let us first consider the proposal for Bill 128 in Quebec: *An Act to promote the protection of persons by establishing a framework with regard to dogs*, and how this is tied into current Ontario laws.²⁹ Quebec political leaders originally stated that they were in favor of Bill 128, partly due to the “overwhelming success” that Ontario has had in reducing dog bites since its implementation. Really? In this Bill, the first thing that jumped out was the fact that Bill 128 would supersede Bill 54, the *Quebec Sentient Beings Act; An Act to Improve the Legal Situation of Animals*, which was voted in by a vote of 109-0 (Civil code of Quebec 898.1). In this Act, it was determined that animals are beings capable of feelings, and have emotions. The fact that this law had to be written is a very sad reality, however having this in legislation was a beacon of hope in an otherwise dismal world for Quebec animals, and was a huge step in the right direction for the province considering it’s world record number of puppy mills, the highest euthanasia rates in Canada, and Quebec’s poor reputation as “the best place in Canada to be an animal abuser”. Commonly referred to as *The Sentient Beings Act* (Bill 54) became sacred to the animal welfare world, and the fact that it had been threatened by Bill 128 caused mass fury amongst animal rights advocates across the province, and the country. Bill 128 was simple; it designated the province with the right to decide what domesticated pets are sentient, and which ones are not. AND, it declares that certain breeds of dog, **regardless of temperament or situation**, are deemed as dangerous according to the law, including American Pit Bull Terriers, American Staffordshire Terriers, Staffordshire Bull Terriers, Rottweilers, any cross breed of involving any of these dogs, hybrid dogs, and any dog trained to protect, guard, fight or attack. With all the evidence available on the inapplicability of breed specific laws, it makes one question the drive behind the decision by the Quebec government to suddenly decide that this was the best course of action to protect the public from dangerous dogs.

The fact remains this: a dangerous dog, be it a “pit bull” type or otherwise, is still a dangerous dog and should be dealt with accordingly. However, deciding to punish an entire breed or type of dog due to an isolated incident will never prove effective in protecting the public. You are punishing innocent, and according to Bill 54 in Quebec, sentient beings, for the wrong doings of another, not to mention immediately criminalizing responsible owners. The Quebec government stated that it was using the success of BSL in Ontario as a driving factor on why it wanted to implement a new ban on certain types of dogs. How on earth they could locate any useful statistics from Ontario is beyond the comprehension of animal advocates of both provinces, as Ontario’s BSL has been proven time and time again to be nothing more than another ineffective attempt to protect the public from dangerous dogs. They didn’t even take into consideration that Ontario dog bite rates are steadily on the rise, and have been over the last decade, despite a ban on “pit bulls” being in place.

Bill 128 also claimed to conserve autonomy for municipalities by allowing them to put more extreme laws in place on top of the provincial law. There are many towns in Quebec, however, who have reversed their Breed Specific Legislation in recent years as they have learned it was nothing more than a costly waste of resources that does not actually protect the public; most recently the cities of Chateauguay in August, 2017, and Montreal in

²⁸ <http://www.assnat.qc.ca/en/travaux-parlementaires/projets-loi/projet-loi-54-41-1.html>

²⁹ http://www.assnat.qc.ca/Media/Process.aspx?MediaId=ANQ.Vigie.Bll.DocumentGenerique_128951en&process=Original&token=ZyMoxNwUn8ikQ+TRKYwPCjWrKwg+vIv9rjij7p3xLGTZDmLVSmJLoqe/vG7/YWzz

December, 2017. Many cities in Ontario have also gone in a similar direction and have claimed that, mostly due to lack of funding and difficulty of breed identification and enforcement, they cannot efficiently enforce the provincial ban. Thankfully after hearing arguments from both sides, and after lengthy consultations in 2018, Quebec decided against enacting a provincial wide ban on any type or breed of dog.

Ottawa has gone to the extent that they publicly declared it will not enforce the Ontario provincial ban on the official city website;³⁰

City of Ottawa

The City of Ottawa does not enforce the provincial ban on pit bulls. Within the City, the [Animal Care and Control By-law \(By-law 2003-77\)](#) is the primary tool to govern dogs of all breeds. Pet owners should be aware of their responsibilities under this by-law and must register their animals accordingly. This includes all types of pit bull or pit bull mixes.

Ottawa uses their Animal Care and Control By-law³¹ to encourage responsible ownership amongst the dog owners of the city. **This bylaw is completely breed neutral.** Ottawa also does not have a problem with aggressive dogs, problematic dogs, or otherwise, and the pets in the city are generally well cared for and responsibly owned³². Christine Hartig of the City of Ottawa bylaw services attended the consultations for Bill 128 and stated just that³³. Ottawa's chief of bylaw services, Roger Chapman, has stated in numerous interviews the difficulty that cities have in enforcing the breed specific components of DOLA. The City of Ottawa also keeps statistics on the total number of dog bites per year, which indicate that "pit bull" type dogs account for a very small percentage of reported incidents. Between the year 2005 when the provincial ban was implemented and the end of 2016, there were 4113 dog bites officially reported and recorded in Ottawa; 16 (0.004%) came from dogs accurately identified as "pit bulls" or "pit bull" mixes. There is an average of 450 dog bites reported each year in the city, less than 2% come from dogs initially typed as "pit bull. This is further evidence that with the hundreds of "pit bull" type dogs peacefully living in the city, they are not the root cause of vicious dog bites or attacks. Below, in a 2016 interview with Metro News Ottawa³⁴ Chapman explains his rationale as to why the city does not enforce:

The Ontario government banned pit bull-type dogs in 2005, but since 2011 the city has only taken seven pit bull owners to court. Six of those dogs were put down.

Chapman said the breed-specific ban poses a big challenge to his department.

"Singling out particular breeds is both over-inclusive and under-inclusive," Chapman said in an email. "Many well-behaved dogs among the controlled breeds are included, and many poorly-behaved dogs from other breeds are excluded."

He said of the average 450 dog bites reported each year, only about two per cent are from pit bull-type dogs.

With an estimated 100,000 dogs in the city, "problematic dogs are a very small minority," he added.

It is important to understand that "panic policy" is always an immediate emotional response to the stimulus of an intrusive or injurious event. As time passes and the event recedes in memory, the public's emotions will cool. People will become discouraged or neglect their demands for a policy change and eventually their demand for

³⁰ <https://ottawa.ca/en/residents/animals-and-pets/registration-and-regulations#cat-and-dog-registration>

³¹ <https://ottawa.ca/en/living-ottawa/laws-licences-and-permits/laws/law-z/animal-care-and-control-law-no-2003-77>

³² There are many other Ontario cities who do not enforce the DOLA, however they have not publicly made such a declaration.

³³ <http://www.assnat.qc.ca/fr/travaux-parlementaires/commissions/ci-41-1/journal-debats/CI-180321.html>

³⁴ <http://www.metronews.ca/news/ottawa/2016/08/15/pit-bull-crack-down-too-costly-ottawa-bylaw-chief-says.html>

action will fade. The panic thus “fades” and rather than re-examining the laws and whether or not they are actually effective, certain policy makers ignore the issue with the fear that they will be proven wrong and will need to go back on something they claimed as “dire” in order to pass the law in the first place.

In Ontario, the actual record of events leading up to implementation of BSL is difficult to construct because of the “behind closed doors” decisions that respondents would not describe. The ban, however evidences as a specific version of panic policy making at its finest.

It is on record that breed specific legislation was fairly voted out of Ontario with the presentation of Bill 16 on 23 February 2012. At this time, there were 77 out of the 108 members sitting on the Ontario Legislative Assembly present, and of those 77 members of parliament, 51 to 26 (66%) fairly voted in favor of lifting BSL from Ontario legislation. I repeat; **BSL was fairly voted OUT in the Ontario Legislative Assembly**. Sadly, the Liberal government prorogued the parliamentary session, therefore postponing the final reading of this bill and essentially killing it, resulting in their own political agenda not becoming damaged. Sadly, to the dismay of animal welfare advocates who finally saw a light at the end of the tunnel, once again, the ban was not lifted. It was a dark day for Ontarians to discover that the Liber leader of our province was ruling Ontario as a dictatorship, rather than as the democracy it is. There was no thought given to the fact that they were completely negating the people of Ontario their fundamental right to freedom of choice as stated in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.³⁵

Let’s get back to the preconditions that must exist in order to create panic policy, as mentioned earlier in this chapter. Although a few publicized fatal dog attacks had transpired in Ontario in the decades prior to the implementation of BSL in 2005, these incidents produced NO immediate public outcry or media demands for the control of dangerous dogs, even though there were 9 children **killed** from fatal dog attacks in the province. It wasn’t until the 2004 incident involving 2 dogs deemed as “pit bulls” by media who attacked an adult male with **non-life threatening injuries** that the province acted.

In this particular situation, there were many questions that should have been asked: Why did these dogs suddenly attack? What was the circumstance? Was there a history of abuse toward the dogs? Were the dogs a product of irresponsible breeding practices? Was there something potentially being covered up preventing an accurate investigation? Were any of the neighbors questioned? There was much speculation following the incident that the man walking the dogs was involved in organized crime, including the selling of narcotics and dog fighting, but of course this allegation was not reported in the media.

Sadly, the focus instead was on the fact that these dogs had allegedly “attacked for no reason”, although some neighbors reported differently, stating that those dogs were known as “trained to kill” in the community. None of these circumstances were adequately investigated, even though it was glaringly obvious that something was missing in the information that was provided to the public. Throughout the course of reporting of this incident, the focus remained solely on the injury to the human due to the type of dogs involved. There was never mention, or even an investigation, of the likely repugnant living situation of the innocent dogs. The dogs in question were the ones who lost their lives. Victimized by irresponsible ownership at its finest, yet somehow they were the ones who became the villains. So again, why was this incident not investigated and why did the government of Ontario instead invoke the panic policy known as BSL; a law that is proven tenfold as ineffective? In the incident that was the one that broke the camel’s back, there was no loss of human life; one needs to ask why, then, were the lives of the people previously involved in fatal dog attacks irrelevant to the Ontario government? And why did they only act when it was a “pit bull” that was involved?

Against all evidence and animal expert opinion, then Liberal Party of Ontario’s Attorney General, Michael Bryant, decided to go ahead and legislate a ban on the ownership of “pit bulls” in the province. Critics of the Liberals – the party of majority in the Legislative Assembly at the time – have suggested that the ban was a tactic manufactured by the Liberals to deflect criticism of the growth of crime and gang activity, mostly in the Toronto area. Then opposition Progressive Conservative and New Democratic Party legislators also speculated that he

³⁵ See Annex 3 at the end of the document for access to the results of this vote.

proposed the ban to deflect media attention from other issues and unpopular policies bedeviling the Liberal government at the time. In the eyes of the opposition, the identification of a “pit bull” problem in the province was a completely politically motivated event. Of note: to this day, the overall position of the NDP, the PC, and the Green Parties of Ontario remain against any form of Breed Specific Legislation in the province.

Soon Bryant held news conferences to present the proposed ban and link it, by inference, to criminals, outlaw bikers, and urban gangs – sadly identifying and therefore blaming groups with members often drawn from ethnic minorities. Although one reporter showed Bryant himself a photo array of dogs and he was unable to correctly identify a “pit bull” type dog, with his support, the Liberal party pushed ahead in its promotion of what became a series of amendments to the Dog Owners Liability Act. Bryant claims that a series of consultations with police, animal law enforcement officers, humane societies, and what he described as a “broad spectrum of stakeholders” had taken place. It was with this statement that he could therefore state that the Liberal government had engaged in “constructive and expert research” into the recommendations put forth. If the Liberal government had consulted with accredited and reputable animal experts, they would have acknowledged that BSL is not an acceptable form of public safety or animal control. So with whom did they actually consult with? And why, after all these years, is the information still exempted from the Access to Information Act? Is it because they have something to hide? Is it because they didn’t actually engage in these so called consultations with the witnesses as they claimed? Is there somehow miraculously a so called “animal expert” that was located who is suddenly in favor of breed banning? Doubtful.

The Liberal government moved on to press releases and media interviews, led by Attorney General Bryant, in an attempt to orchestrate public support for a “pit bull” ban. Bryant characterized the dogs as a “menace to society” and compared them to a “loaded weapon”. At no point did he mention the alleged criminals that owned dogs typed as “pit bull” or the criminal activity that he claimed went hand in hand with ownership of a “pit bull”, nor was there mention of the fact that due to media hype about this type of dog, they had sadly become the favorites amongst members of gangs and other criminal organizations. Maybe, his mind was so set on implementing BSL that he truly believed that even the activity of the owner was the fault of these dogs.

Press releases cited multiple municipal officials, including the Mayor of Toronto, the Chief of Toronto Police Services, the Mayor of Kitchener and the Mayor of Wawa, as supporters of the ban, none of whom are experts in animal behavior. The government also then arranged press statements from victims of attacks about the extent of their injuries, with their comments emphasizing the supposed danger “pit bulls” posed for children. Ask yourself the following questions: if the Ontario Liberals were SO sure that their breed banning practices are fully supported by the entire province, why are there tens of thousands of advocates fighting for their pets every day? Why are there so many “pit bull” type dogs living in the province peacefully as part of a loving, responsible family? Why are the records of these decisions and supposed expert consultation still protected from release to the public? Why are there tens of millions of “pit bulls” around the world who did nothing but love their families last night, without incident? Why every year are there so many protests, many of whom include these supposedly “dangerous dogs”, promoting all the good things about these dogs, occurring WITHOUT INCIDENT? Why are there hundreds of thousands of people across the country fighting to save their pets from annihilation? And finally, why did the mother of a child who was tragically killed by a Bull Mastiff, a dog that could easily have been targeted as a dog having the “characteristics of a pit bull” as described in the Ontario provincial ban, come out herself as a strong opponent against BSL??

It is a proven fact that BSL will never work, and that once implemented, it is incredibly difficult to repeal due to the unwillingness of some politicians to admit fault or error. Why does the city of Calgary refuse to implement BSL, yet has the lowest dog bites per capita on record in Canada? Could it be due to city and provincial governments support of mandatory public and owner education about dogs (including early education in the elementary school curriculum), required canine training, tougher criminal penalties for irresponsible dog ownership and ownership of a known dangerous dog (including steep fines for non-compliance with animal control bylaws), better reporting of dog bites, comprehensive dog licensing with steep fines for non-compliance with city bylaws, and controls on dog breeding and puppy mills are the real way to ensure public safety? With tougher

penalties in place to deter the behavior of criminal activity, animal negligence and irresponsible ownership, public safety is certain to be affected, and this time for the better! For more information on the Calgary model please see [Chapter 9: The Calgary Model](#) of this document.



With the introduction of Bill 147³⁶ in November of 2019, the people of Ontario once again have hope that the newly elected Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario will be the ones who finally have the safety of the public as their first priority. The bill, which was presented by MPP Rick Nicholls, is requesting that the breed specific language be removed, and that owner accountability and public education be enforced instead. MPP Nicholls is basing his bill on scientific and factual evidence, as well as using statistical proof from the City of Calgary, who reduced their bites exponentially by including mandatory education on behaviors around dogs to children in elementary schools. Calgary does not have a problem with aggressive dogs of any breed, and also have an animal control program in place that is of no cost to the tax paying public. To this day, Calgary has breed neutral laws.

MPP Nicholls, with the help of MPP David Piccini, is hoping to make an example of irresponsible owners of all breeds, which will be aided by the soon to be passed Provincial Animal Welfare Services Act (affectionately called the PAWS Act) which will see the strictest penalties in the country for animal abuse, cruelty, and neglect³⁷. There has never been a better time to show the citizens of Ontario that the PC Government has their safety as their top priority. PAWS will include a \$75,000 fine and/or 6 months in jail for a first offence of animal cruelty, doubling for second offences. Irresponsible owners should be made an example of, which is the hope of every animal welfare advocate across the province, and the country.

In conclusion to this chapter, science, evidence and facts have demonstrated that “pit bulls” should not automatically be deemed as aggressive due to a few isolated incidents. A dog is a dog, and is the product of its environment. It is the responsibility of the government to ensure that laws promoting public safety and adequate protection from dog related incidents, as well as educational programs exist, in order to ensure the safety of not only the citizens of Ontario, but also to Ontario’s animals.

³⁶ <https://www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/bills/parliament-42/session-1/bill-147>

³⁷ <https://www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/bills/parliament-42/session-1/bill-136>

CHAPTER 7: THE FACTS OF BREED SPECIFIC LEGISLATION

What is Breed Specific Legislation?

Breed Specific Legislation (BSL), sometimes referred as Breed Discriminatory Legislation (BDL), is any blanket legislation forcing certain restrictions or regulations on all dogs of a certain breed, size, weight or appearance without considering the behavior of individual animals or the responsibility of individual owners. BSL is not just about breed bans, it is also about restrictions on owning certain breeds and types of dogs.³⁸

BSL is a very over inclusive and under inclusive law, to say the least, meaning that well behaved dogs of certain types or breeds are unfairly targeted, and problematic dogs of other types are not dealt with accordingly. Often referred to as “panic policy making”, BSL is virtually always adopted after a highly publicized traumatic incident involving a dog. Most breed specific laws don’t even target a specific breed, but rather a loosely defined class of dogs (e.g. “pit bull”). Almost all BSL contains an additional clause: “or any dog with an appearance or physical characteristics that are substantially similar to the aforementioned breed(s)”. In other words, there are dogs that are often subject to BSL not because they **are** in fact a specific breed, but because they **simply look similar to a particular breed**, or have a general physical appearance that someone might consider to be “breed-like” to the targeted dog.

BSL consistently creates a false sense of public security. The often misinformed general public will assume that with animal control bylaws in place such as BSL, it is virtually impossible that there is any chance to be attacked or bitten by a dog. This law exists for the exact reason of protecting them from dog bites, right? Wrong! Little do they know that BSL actually makes it more probable that they will be involved in some sort of dog confrontation, as this law often ignores problematic dogs who are not considered as “dangerous” according to the legislation. This is why it has been stated over and over again by animal experts, as well as animal control enforcement officers, that BSL is a very over inclusive/under inclusive law. For example, in 2016/17, according to the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care for Ontario, there were a reported 13,643 dog bites ranging in severity by hundreds of different breeds and types of dogs, just in 2016 alone. Three of these bites came from dogs who were classified as “pit bulls”. That is a very clear and concise statistic, provided by one of the leading agencies of healthcare in the province, that by having BSL in place, you are most certainly not given any guarantee that you will not be involved in a dog related incident.

BSL is constantly defended by those who wish to have it in place with the mentality of “we are putting people first”. What these law makers don’t realize is that BSL does affect people just as much, or more, as it affects the targeted dogs. It is very difficult to understand how they do not see the devastation that occurs when a family pet is stripped away for no reason, and what kind of impact that something like that has not only on the dog, but on the human(s). Many people rely on their dogs for companionship, mental or emotional well being, and general safety. People are just as much a target of BSL as their innocent dogs, and those **people** are the ones who live with the agony and suffering of having had their family needless destroyed due to nothing other than their appearance. It is a very common statement made by advocates that “until you personally have known the love of a pet, you will never understand how strong the bond is between a human and an animal”.

In conclusion, policy makers will always try to defend their position on BSL as “we need to put humans first”. While advocates do not disagree with that statement in a general sense, what the government doesn’t seem to understand is that BSL has a long lasting effect on those people they claim to “put first”. It is a proven fact that pets have a big part in general health, companionship, and family bonds, therefore the people who put BSL in place are completely neglecting the “people first” aspect of their own statement.

Breed Specific Legislation does NOT work!

There has never been a municipality across the world that that has successfully enforced BSL. There has been no reduction of dog bites and no increase to public safety, as municipalities are concentrating all their efforts on one

³⁸ <https://stopbsl.org/bsloverview/>

breed of dog rather than dealing with the dogs that are actually “dangerous”. BSL forces responsible owners to hide their well behaved dogs out of fear, creating potential for under-socialized dogs, which could then result in problematic behavior. It is confirmed that there are MANY issues associated with breed specific laws, most notably the inability of untrained law enforcement agents (i.e. not professionally trained in animal identification) to correctly visually identify the breed of dog. This is a virtually impossible task for untrained law enforcement do visually as even animal experts such as the Canadian Kennel Club, SPCA’s and Humane Society’s across the country, and veterinarians across the world struggle with accurate visual confirmation of breed of dog.³⁹

Since the implementation of BSL in Ontario in 2005, statistics indicate that the yearly number of dog bites in Ontario has consistently increased and that other breeds of dogs not included in breed specific legislation laws across the province have been responsible for far more bites overall than “pit bull” types, even though the “pit bull” population across the province has only minimally decreased. BSL is causing additional problems for the province, as responsible dog owners are afraid to register their pets out of fear, resulting in inaccurate statistic keeping. For example, why, if Ontario has laws in place banning “pit bull” type dogs, are there SO many media reports of incidents involving alleged “pit bull” type dogs in the news? Why was a pure bred Black Lab with CKC papers targeted under BSL and removed from its home until the papers were produced proving that animal control was wrong? It’s not much wonder that people are afraid to register their dogs. This alone is proof that BSL is not going to stop people from having their dog of choice; it is just going to promote the hiding of family dogs regardless of what the situation is.

The legislation in Ontario has resulted in the unnecessary euthanasia of thousands of innocent dogs and puppies, virtually none of whom had a history of violence against people or other animals. It is commonly agreed upon by the general public, as well as many political figures in multiple municipalities, that the onus of control should be placed on the owner of the dog, regardless of the breed. This has been made clear as of late with the results of polls in news outlets such as the Toronto Star⁴⁰ who even after very negative reporting, the polls still show that the average person wants BSL repealed by a landslide.

The responsibility of educating the public on how to approach a strange dog should be a requirement of the province and included in elementary school curriculums to promote canine safety to children as well as their families. Education is key to the prevention of dog bites, banning a breed will only continue to provide a false sense of security to the general public and heartbreak to innocent, responsible dog owners and families.

Why BSL is WRONG

- BSL does not improve public safety or prevent dog bites. Studies from areas where BSL has been applied show that dog bite rates remain approximately the same;
- An irresponsible dog owner of a legislated breed will still be an irresponsible owner of the next dog they are legally able to obtain;
- Studies show that BSL is far too great a cost to tax payers considering its inefficiency at protecting the public from dangerous dogs of all breeds;
- BSL lulls the population into a false sense of security, believing the “dangerous dogs” of the world are restricted. This exacerbates the problem politicians claim to be trying to fix by enacting BSL in the first place;
- BSL enhances the “negative prestige” of the bred in the minds of the wrong type of guardian. People using dogs for criminal activities will hide the dogs with or without BSL because it is the illegal activity they are hiding, not the breed;
- BSL damages the reputation of targeted breeds of dogs and ignores the plight of victims and potential victims of non-targeted breeds⁴¹;

³⁹ <http://veterinarymedicine.dvm360.com/judging-dog-its-cover-dangers-breed-misidentification>

⁴⁰ <https://www.thestar.com/politics/provincial/2019/10/08/ontarios-top-lawmaker-looks-for-ideas-on-reforms-to-pit-bull-ban.html>

⁴¹ <https://stopbsl.org/bsloverview/the-injustice-to-victims/>

- BSL is a blanket law that punishes responsible guardians and behaviorally sound dogs more than it protects society; these people are affected well before any actual infraction occurs;
- BSL requires each and every dog to be identified as a specific breed - something that has proven impossible to do accurately and objectively;
- BSL makes targeted breeds more desirable to irresponsible and criminal owners;
- BSL does nothing to make irresponsible dog owners accountable;
- BSL punishes responsible dog owners; and finally
- Not a single animal welfare organization supports BSL.

The American Bar Association of legal attorneys strongly discourages the implementation of any form of BSL by government administrations citing that these laws are impossible to execute at the enforcement or judicial levels. Arbitrary and discriminatory officers have no way of visually identifying a breed, complicating traditional notions of due process. In court proceedings breed misidentification, as well as property rights and basic human rights, negate convictions. If there is one link to a study in this presentation that politicians considering Breed Specific Legislation should read, it's this one from the legal point of view.⁴²

One of many available examples is as follows: In January of 2010, authorities in Brampton, Ontario seized two dogs, about whom there had been no complaint for running at large, aggression or biting, claiming that they satisfied the loose definition of "pit bull" as used in the Dog Owners Liability Act of Ontario. The dogs were evaluated by an independent veterinarian who advised the city that the dogs did not satisfy the definition. After the dogs had been in the animal shelter for 97 days, they were finally released to their owners. According to the Brampton Guardian, the city expended approximately \$43,000.00 in the matter of just these 2 dogs. The dogs, although eventually reunited with their very relieved owners, were still subject to BSL.^{43,44}

The following is a non-exhaustive list of a sampling of reputable organizations from across the world who publicly oppose Breed Discriminatory Legislation with links to their position statements:

1. The Centers for Disease Control
<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview.htm>
2. State Farm Insurance Company
<https://newsroom.statefarm.com/position>
3. The National Animal Care & Control Association
http://www.nacenet.org/resource/Docs/NACA_Guidelines.pdf
4. Association of Professional Dog Trainers
<https://apdt.com/about/position-statements/>
5. American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior
https://avsab.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Breed-Specific_Legislation.pdf
6. National Canine Research Council
<https://www.nationalcanineresearchcouncil.com/news/breed-specific-legislation-myth-based-and-ineffective>
7. Humane Society International (Canada)
<http://www.hsi.org/world/canada/work/breed-specific-legislation.html>
8. The Humane Society of the United States
<http://www.humanesociety.org/breed-specific-legislation-all-dogs-are-equal.html>
9. Canadian Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA)
<http://www.sPCA.com/position>
10. American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
<https://www.aspca.org/about-us/aspca-policy-and-position-statements/position-statement-breed-specific-legislation>
11. L'Ordre des Médecins Vétérinaires de Québec

⁴² <http://www.americanbar.org>

⁴³ <https://www.bramptonguardian.com/news-story/3071562-dogs-freed-ruled-not-pitbulls-video/>

⁴⁴ https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2010/02/02/seized_dogs_are_pit_bulls_brampton_says.html

<https://www.omvq.qc.ca/l-ordre/positions-et-politiques.html>

12. Canadian Veterinary Medical Association

<https://www.canadianveterinarians.net/documents/legislation-concerning-dangerous-dogs-position-statement>

13. American Veterinary Medical Association

<https://www.avma.org/KB/Policies/Pages/Dangerous-Animal-Legislation.aspx>

9. Veterinary Ireland

http://www.veterinaryireland.ie/Veterinary_Ireland_Policy_on_Control_of_Dogs_2016.pdf

14. British Veterinary Association

<https://www.bva.co.uk/News-campaigns-and-policy/Policy/Companion-animals/Dangerous-dogs/>

15. Canadian Kennel Club

<https://www.ckc.ca/Legal-Policy-and-Procedures/Legislative>

16. American Kennel Club

http://images.akc.org/pdf/canine_legislation/PBLEG2.pdf 10

17. United Kennel Club

<https://www.ukcdogs.com/docs/legal/breed-specific-legislation.pdf>

18. American Bar Association

<https://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/administrative/.pdf>

19. The Toronto Humane Society

https://www.torontohumanesociety.com/pdfs/Breed_Specific_Legislation_Jan-14.pdf

20. American Veterinary Medical Association

<https://www.avma.org/KB/Policies/Pages/Dangerous-Animal-Legislation.aspx>

21. The Ontario Veterinary Medical Association

https://e60dc353-1819-410b-9a0d-8d7c33735f7c.filesusr.com/ugd/f06659_df66dc1106ff476eaa0b208848635429.pdf

22. Best Friends Animal Society

<https://bestfriends.org/resources/bsl-why-breed-specific-legislation-all-bark-and-fiscal-bite> ⁴⁵

There are more than 100 municipalities all over North America who have reversed their breed specific laws. In the United States, as of 2019, there are currently 21 states that have anti-BSL laws in place, prohibiting municipalities within their borders from enacting BSL. It is proven over and over again to be baseless discrimination.⁴⁶ Below is a sample, from California law, of the findings and rationales behind the decision to not include breed specific legislation in the State law:

California

There is a very general in legislative declaration in spay neuter laws:

(b) Though no specific breed of dog is inherently dangerous or vicious, the growing pet overpopulation and lack of regulation of animal breeding practices necessitates a repeal of the ban on breed-specific solutions and a more immediate alternative to existing laws.

West's Ann. Cal. Health & Safety Code § 122330

California also prohibits BSL in the state's dangerous dog law:

Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prevent a city or county from adopting or enforcing its own program for the control of potentially dangerous or vicious dogs that may incorporate all, part, or none of this chapter, or that may punish a violation of this chapter as a misdemeanor or may impose a more restrictive program to control potentially dangerous or vicious dogs, provided that no program shall regulate these dogs in a manner that is specific as to breed.

BSL IS AN ETHICAL FAILURE PUT IN PLACE BY LAZY POLITICIANS!

BSL IS A PUBLIC SAFETY FAILURE PUT IN PLACE BY LAZY POLITICIANS!

⁴⁵ For additional information on animal welfare groups in Ontario opposed to BSL, please visit endtheban.ca and go to “letters of support”

⁴⁶ <https://www.animallaw.info/article/overview-states-prohibit-bsl>

CHAPTER 8: THE COST OF ENFORCING BSL

While there is currently no statistical data that exists on exact figures, or at least none that has been released under the Access to Information Act, we are still able to produce accurate estimates based on facts surrounding the enforcement of BSL across Ontario.

Please note that these estimates are based on publicly posted salary averages, and will not produce exact costs involved.

For our estimates and breakdowns of cost we will provide 3 examples where we have come up with our figures. First we will examine the city of Toronto, and the costs that the tax payers of the City face under the current BSL in the DOLA, and will also provide the provincial breakdown of costs. Lastly will be the high profile case, commonly known as the “Chatham 21”, which involved an alleged dog fighting operation, drug and weapon charges, and boarding of 21 dogs while an ongoing investigation was conducted.

For reference, according to public record:

- There are 444 municipalities in the province of Ontario with populations that range from small towns of less than 1000 to large metropolitan cities of over 1,000,000. These municipalities are the responsibility of 124 sitting Members of Provincial Parliament (MPP);
- The 2018 population of Ontario is 14.32 million people;
- It is a requirement to have one additional bylaw officer per 150,000 people, or one bylaw officer per municipality in smaller towns, to enforce BSL as currently written, with an average salary of \$50,000/year;
- Boarding costs of confiscated dogs last on average 90 days before either being release to their family, relocation, or euthanization, and includes food and shelter, at a cost of approximately \$50 per day;
- The average salary of a lawyer in Ontario is \$80,000/year or 41\$/hour,
- The average salary of a judge in Ontario is \$300,000/year or \$153/hour,
- The average salary for a police officer in Ontario is \$65,000/year or \$33/hour,
- The average salary of a veterinarian is \$70,000/year or \$36/hour,
- The average salary of a bylaw officer is \$44,850/year or \$23/hour;
- There is significant court time involved in many of cases where dogs are confiscated by animal control or police services. Assuming that there are lawyers, judges, warrants, witnesses, police, veterinarians and bylaw involved, the average cost per case (that lasts approximately 90 days) is a minimum of \$200,000;
- Euthanization and/or relocation of animals out of province, which often times includes DNA testing in an attempt to confirm breed as well as additional veterinary care, is approximately \$700 per case (assuming that euthanization costs average approximately \$350-400, DNA testing is approximately \$200-250, and/or relocation costs average approximately \$400-500);

The Annual Cost of Enforcing BSL in the City of Toronto

The Greater Toronto Area (GTA) has a population of 6,417,516 people according to the 2016 census (which is the most recent on record). On average, there are approximately 100 dogs per year in Toronto who are targeted according to BSL, some of whom are released virtually immediately, some of whom are confined for months while their owners frantically scramble to prove the innocence of their pets. Of note, there are hundreds of dogs across the province who are mistakenly labeled as “pit bull” on almost a daily basis.

According to the information referenced above, the City of Toronto would be held liable for the following costs related to the enforcement of BSL:

- 43 additional bylaw officers – \$44,850/average salary per year: \$1,928,550.00
- Based on 100 dogs targeted, and an average cost per day of \$50 for boarding, multiplied by 90 days: \$450,000.00

- Based on an estimate of 100 annual cases and using the 90 day average, the cost for legal fees, including the cost of police enforcement is:
 - lawyer fee based on 1 hour per day/90 day case length at an average of \$41/hour: \$369,000.00
 - judge fee based on 5 hours per case at an average of \$150/hour: \$75,000.00
 - law enforcement based on 5 hours per case at an average of \$34/hour: \$17,000.00
- Based on an estimate of 100 cases and using the 90 day average, the cost for veterinarian care for targeted dogs is (assuming they see the dog on a daily basis): \$324,000.00
- Based on an estimate of 100 cases and using the 90 day average, the cost for euthanization, relocation costs, an DNA testing is:
 - DNA testing for 100 dogs: \$20,000.00
 - Relocation/euthanization costs for an average of 50% of confiscated dogs: \$40,000.00

ANNUAL GRAND TOTAL FOR TORONTO USING COST AVERAGES ALONE: \$3,223,550.00

The Annual Cost of Enforcing BSL in the Province of Ontario*

There are 444 municipalities currently in Ontario that range from small towns to large metropolitan cities. Enforcement is based on population as described above. For averages purposes the provincial cost breakdown is as follows:

- 1 extra animal control officers per municipality per year: \$22,200,000.00
- Boarding costs of confiscated dogs based on averages above for length of stay and assuming there are 5 dogs per year per municipality: \$9,990,000.00
- Court time based on average of 5 dogs per year per municipality:
 - lawyer fee based on 1 hour per day/90 day case length/average of \$41/hour: \$8,191,800.00
 - judge fee based on 5 hours per case/average of \$150/hour: \$1,665,000.00
 - law enforcement based on 5 hours per case/average of \$34/hour: \$377,400.00
- Veterinarian care based on average of 5 dogs per year per municipality: \$7,192,800.00
- Euthanasia, relocation, and DNA testing costs per year per municipality:
 - DNA testing for average of 5 dogs per municipality: \$444,000.00
 - Relocation/euthanization for average of 5 dogs per municipality: \$888,000.00

ANNUAL GRAND TOTAL FOR ONTARIO USING COST AVERAGES ALONE: \$50,949,000.00

It is important to note that this does not include any high profile cases, such as the Chatham 21, where the court fees are astronomically higher than the averages stated here. It is also important to note that the average salaries for many of the occupations are based on a 37.5-hour work week, and do not include many of the court registration fees required (e.g. motions, search warrants, investigation time, jail time for suspects involved in animal abuse or illegal animal activities, etc.). That being said, it is safe to say that the cost of enforcement is likely closer to \$60,000,000.00 per year.

We realize that while smaller municipalities in the province may not have the 5 dogs mentioned above as targets, larger municipalities, such as Toronto, Kingston or Ottawa will have far greater numbers than the averages we have compiled. Again these numbers are based on averages due to no statistical data being held per municipality

The Chatham 21 Case

The “Chatham 21” case was a 2-year litigation process, where the OSPCA and the province litigated to kill the dogs that were rescued from an alleged fighting ring in Tilbury, Ontario. Animal welfare advocates fought for 2 years to have the dogs released to rescue in order for them to be rehabilitated and adopted into family homes before they finally won. Some of these dogs are now working as K9 officers and certified therapy dogs, yet the perpetrators

of the alleged dog fighting ring were released without a trial due to the delay in the courts, which seems to be more of a provincial problem than anything else.

Preliminary costs based on the OSPCA's own figures put the bare minimum of the cost at \$1,064,646.00. This total includes the costs related to housing, feeding, veterinary care, and other costs associated with the health and welfare of the animals. It is not unreasonable to assume that the costs for the courts for a 2-year litigation process would be in excess of another million dollars. So for just this one case, the cost to the tax payers of Ontario was more than \$2,000,000.00. FOR ONE CASE!

The 2 worst parts of this case were as follows:

1. Ontario (the OSPCA) declared the dogs as unfit candidates for rehabilitation and ordered all dogs euthanized. Animal welfare advocates fought for the rights of these dogs and won, and now these dogs are being adopted at an incredible rate into loving homes as family pets, being trained as K9 police force dogs, and are registered therapy dogs. **NONE** of the dogs involved have been involved in any reported incidents, regardless of the pain inflicted on them at the hands of negligent and criminal human beings. So the dogs that Ontario claimed were unworthy of their lives in this province moved to the USA and were given the chance they deserved and are now flourishing. Why are they a vicious menace to society in one province, and welcome family members in a different State???
2. The perpetrators were not charged with animal cruelty due to an unreasonable delay in the court system. They were also cleared of other criminal charges such as drugs and weapons possession, dog fighting paraphernalia, as well as injured and abused animals.

This is another example of how the frivolous spending included in the enforcement of BSL is completely outrageous, as the 2 million dollars spent in this case was simply wiped out as a "technical error". The concern in this case from a political point is as follows: THE SAFETY OF THE PUBLIC WAS NOT PARAMOUNT – KILLING DOGS WHO WERE NOTHING MORE THAN VICTIMS DUE TO THEIR BREED WAS.

CHAPTER 9: THE CALGARY MODEL

In North America, we do not have a problem with pet overpopulation, stray animals, nuisance or vicious animals – we have a problem with irresponsible pet ownership. Virtually every animal that ends up in a Canadian shelter or on the street is there because a human relationship failed them. The Calgary model is one that many animal lovers advocate for as it is the one law that exists in the country in regards to dog safety that is effective. The city of Calgary has the lowest bite rate per capita in the country, the highest registration rates, and no breed specific components or pet limitations included. Calgary makes following the laws rewarding to the responsible pet owners in the city, rather than burdensome. And the city does not have a problem with animal control. Let us examine this further.

“We don’t have a pet problem. We have a people problem.” This is the statement of Bill Bruce, the Director of Animal Services & Bylaws in Calgary. “We don’t punish breeds, we punish behavior. The bottom line is, we believe all dogs are capable of biting. It’s not so much about controlling pets, it’s about holding owners responsible for their pets.”

Bill Bruce, the Director of Animal Services & Bylaws in Calgary⁴⁷, who took the reins of animal control in Calgary in 2000, agrees with this statement and chooses to target owners, rather than pets. The city’s approach to responsible pet ownership incorporates licensing, providing permanent identification, training, physical care, socialization and medical attention, not allowing pets to become a threat or nuisance in the community, public education, and enforcement, with supporting agencies all working together to achieve the same goals. Educational programs, developed for school age children through to adults, address responsible citizenship and responsible animal ownership. Educational programs are based in the curriculum and include PAWS: Dog Bite Prevention, Dogs in Our Society, Urban Coyotes and the Junior bylaw project, just to name a few for students from kindergarten to grade six. The educators appointed by the city visit schools, present the programs, and supply resource material for students and teachers, free of charge. The team also speaks to community groups and attends any animal related events held in the city. There is strong public support for the efforts of Bill Bruce from the citizens of Calgary. They know that their kind, trained, and friendly Animal Services Department is there to help, not to harm.

The mission statement of Animal Control in the City of Calgary says it all: “To encourage a safe, healthy, vibrant community for people and their pets, through the development, education and compliance of bylaws that reflect community values”. Bruce believes people have a right to have pets and the city has a responsibility to ensure they’re properly cared for, resulting in less unwanted pets. None of the +/- 5000 dogs per year that end up in Calgary shelters are euthanized due to population control. Aggressive animal incidents in the city are virtually non-existent. In 2008, 4830 dogs were impounded for a variety of reasons by Calgary Animal Control. 4125 (85%) were returned to the owner due to compliance of the bylaw registration requirements (1325 of them being driven directly home by animal control). 431 of the dogs that were not registered with the city were adopted to new families and were registered prior to the adoption being finalized. Of the 274 dogs that were euthanized, 204 were due to behavioral issues, 56 were due to health reasons and 14 were listed as “other”. The city does not euthanize animals that are healthy and adoptable. Bruce confirmed that Calgary shelters euthanized 274 dogs in 2008 in a city of 1.1 million people. Within three to five years, the goal is to be a no-kill city, where no animal will be killed unless it’s in the best interest of the animal. Period.

Calgary’s dog licensing and registration requirement is consistently between a 93-98% rate of compliance, where most cities only average somewhere between 10-30%. Bruce believes such a high number of dog owners license their pets because residents are aware of the value received for the money spent. There is no way to achieve this kind of licensing compliance in an environment where citizens feel they must hide their dogs and cats from pet limit laws, BSL, crushing differential licensing fees, or mandatory spay/neuter laws. Without this high licensing compliance, none of the rest of the success could have happened.

⁴⁷ <https://www.calgary.ca/CSPS/ABS/Pages/Bylaws-by-topic/Dogs.aspx>

Bruce notes the cities registration program makes it extremely convenient to license dogs. Licenses can be bought in person at two city locations, online, in banks, by mail, by night deposit, or directly through any bylaw officer. It's no hassle, and every nickel that is collected goes directly back to the animals, ensuring the appreciation of animal owners across the city as they can see the true value for their money, and the safety and care it provides. The humane society gets an annual grant from the city registration program, and the registration fees also pays the salary of the city bylaw officers, the Director of animal control, and the city's educational programs. If an animal needs emergency medical care because it's been hit by a car or is otherwise injured, it's also covered. The Calgary animal registration program not only pays for basics such as staff, equipment and the new shelter (which was built on October 7, 2000, is state of the art, and has never been filled to its capacity, and is staffed by a full time vet), but also for extras like a new clinic currently under construction that will provide free spaying and neutering to low-income families.

This approach generates a 5 million dollar annual operating budget, with absolutely no cost to the tax payer!

The city has a strict fine structure that includes a \$250 penalty for chase incidents and \$350 fines for bites. Those whose dogs defecate on public property in Calgary are fined \$250 if it is not cleaned up. Dogs are not allowed to be "at large" meaning they need to be attended to or supervised (depending on whether it's public or private property). The fine for an "at large" dog is \$100. A person caught teasing or tormenting a dog, which is officially considered an offence in the city, is ticketed \$100. The bylaw also allows animal control officers to declare specific dogs as "dangerous" which brings with it higher license fees, muzzling rules and age restrictions on the dog's handlers. The bylaw states that a dog can only be destroyed by owner request or court order. There is NO mention of specific breeds of any animal in the city bylaws.

Calgary also strongly encourages all people who license their dogs to have them tattooed or microchipped. Every animal control vehicle is equipped with a scanner, so if they find a stray dog, the animal control officer can instantly scan for the chip, and deliver the dog home free of charge (although there are fines if your dog becomes a frequent flyer). This home delivery is a service for people who obey the rules and saves money in animal control costs because stray dogs seldom even make it to their shelter. In turn, the city doesn't incur the costs of putting the dog in the shelter and maintaining it while it's there (food, care, etc.). "Your pet's license is his ticket home" is another of their mottos. Once the dog is back at home, the officer who delivered it will often take the time to offer suggestions to the owner on how to keep their pet properly contained.

If a dog does end up making it to the shelter, its photo is taken immediately and placed on their webpage within 15 minutes of arrival. All the dogs in the shelter are checked and treated for the basic diseases, and if a dog is found injured, animal control will take the dog to a vet. The vets treat the dogs as required, as this service is also included in the fees collected by city registration programs.

The keys to Calgary's success are:

YES	NO
Providing valued services for city pets	No punishing citizens into compliance
Extensive education and PR campaigns provided by the city to emphasize responsible ownership	No mandatory spay/neuter
Buy in and cooperation amongst the community	NO BREED SPECIFIC LEGISLATION
Low license fees and modest differential fees for intact pets	No pet limit laws

The net results of their efforts have been impressive. Calgary's dog attacks fall to lowest level in 25 years despite the absence of breed specific legislation. Over the past 20 years, Calgary has cut their number of dog bites and chases by more than 75%, all the while the human and dog population of Calgary has more than doubled. So much

has been accomplished by focusing on root issues of problems, providing service to their “customers” and getting people to obey their current laws. “It’s not about enforcement, it’s about compliance” says Bruce.

Calgary bylaw officers recorded 340 reported aggressive dog incidents in 2008 which included chases, bites and damage to property. Of those, 145 complaints were bites. In 2007, 374 aggressive dog calls were made, including 137 bites, and in 2006, 402 aggressive dog complaints were made, of which 199 were bite related. By comparison, back in 1985, the city received 1938 aggressive dog complaints, including 621 bite related incidents, at a time when Calgary had a population of just over 600,000. The population is close to 1.2 million.

While dog bites have been going down, the number of pit bulls coming to the city has been increasing. Yet “pit bull” type dogs fare significantly better in Calgary, where there are no breed bans or breed restrictions. A local rescue, Pit Bulls For Life, bring dogs in from jurisdictions with breed specific legislation, where their appearance alone labels them as dangerous, including “pit bull” types, targeted for euthanasia. Over 20 % of the dogs they help come from Ontario. “We have a lot more pit bulls in Calgary now”, a worker from PBFL states. The Director agrees, and states that, “Part of the reason (for the large number of “pit bull” type dogs in the city) is we don’t have breed specific legislation. I’m proud to be a Calgarian because our animal bylaw officers deal with specific incidents and don’t deal with it as a breed issue. There’s no bias and that’s so important. If you’ve got a pit bull and it’s properly licensed and it’s not bothering anybody and it’s well cared for, it’s none of the government’s business. But if the dog becomes a threat the community, oh yeah, it’s my business.”

The Calgary system was built to penalize and correct relatively minor behavioral issues in dogs before they can escalate into something serious. “No dog wakes up and decides to start biting people today”, says Bruce. “It always starts with lesser behaviors that are left unchecked.” Fines increase with the severity of the offense. Owners are ticketed \$350 if their dogs bite, which is increased to \$750 if the bite is serious enough to require medical attention. A severe bite or all-out attack results in a \$1500 fine. Bylaw officers will seize vicious dogs who attack and hold them for 30 days until the matter goes to court. The city will only destroy the animal if the judge orders so. “When you have a vicious dog, you can almost guarantee the owner’s a jerk”, Bruce said. “The dog reflects the owner’s behavior.”

Ontario’s mistake: rather than take an opportunity to make a statement to aggressive dog owners, the province of Ontario has decided instead to ban an entire breed of dog. The irony is that this action in itself goes against everything Canada stands for. Our country has invested years in fighting against segregation of any specific group based on a generalized stereotype about that group. In fact, we label such behavior as prejudice and call such actions a violation of our civil rights. After years of moving our country forward and taking a stand against such actions, the province wide ban on pit bulls in Ontario has just set the clock back, and it has set it back a lot!!!

Breed bans are unenforceable. Breed bans are extremely expensive. Breed bans unfairly punish responsible owners while irresponsible owners of other untargeted dogs ignore the laws. 80% of bite victims are children who will be bitten in their home or at a neighbor’s by the family dog. Research shows that just 1 hour of dog safety training in grades 2 and 3 can reduce these attacks by more than 80%, and the success of the Calgary bylaw proves it is effective.

CHAPTER 10: CONCLUSION

With all of the evidence that exists, you need to ask yourself why the government can't see the reality of the issue surrounding real dangerous dogs, when members of the general public can. No dog just wakes up and decides to be aggressive. Why are there virtually NO animal behavioral experts who agree with this law, not only in Ontario, but across the world? Why do a handful of politicians in Ontario seem to think they know better? Why are Ontario's bite rates to this day on the rise? Why are other municipalities with no breed specific components to their bylaw that have a proven success rate when it comes to protecting the public from dog bites and attacks? It's because the critical factor will always remain the same: It is not about the dog, it is about the owner. A dog that is responsibly owned and cared for is a dog that is an asset to the public, not a danger to it. Dogs bring extended health benefits and happiness to their families. Losing a pet is as much, sometimes more traumatic than losing a human member of your family. Who is the government to decide what beings are sentient and what ones are not???

Family dogs are relied on not only for companionship, but also for mental health and happiness. Dogs, such as service dogs to the blind and companion dogs to those suffering from mental health disorders such as anxiety and depression, are a key element to the continued independent living of their owners, and play a VITAL role in their wellbeing. The Honorable Justin Trudeau stated at the United Nations General Assembly "to reject others because they look differently than we do (is wrong)". Does this statement also apply to the people who rely on their dog, regardless of breed, to survive? Should their dogs be removed due to a breed specific law and in turn find **themselves** as the danger to society without their dogs to keep them stabilized? How is BSL about putting people first when these people, and their mental and physical wellbeing, would be in great jeopardy without their animals? How is BSL about putting people first, when it is those people who suffer with the needless loss, and often unwarranted euthanasia, of their innocent, well behaved dog?

To more people than can be counted, the hypocrisy of Canada's claims to be compassionate and diverse, while at the same time supporting the largest breed ban in the world, has Canadians across the country deeply ashamed of the place that they call home. Prime Minister Trudeau has claimed himself, that "In Canada we got a very important thing right: In Canada we see diversity as a source of strength, not weakness and our country is strong not in spite of our differences, but because of them." There is no room in a country like Canada for discrimination in any form, and we must stand by the words that are dear to Canadians and fight for the rights and freedoms of those who cannot fight for themselves. Compassion is not limited to treatment of humans; it is the treatment of ALL sentient beings. Legislated hate, racism or prejudice in any form is a disgusting scar to the value of compassion that Canadians hold very dear.

It is time that the province owns up to the error that is BSL, and remove the disgraceful law that has discriminated against our dogs for well over a decade. It is time that responsible owners can stop being instantly criminalized and can once again walk their dogs on the street without fear of having them taken from their family. It is time that the Government of Ontario does the right thing, and that BSL is finally lifted from our province so that we can once again be proud Canadians.

As a final thought, here is our pledge to you, our beloved dogs: we will fight for you; we will always be your voice; we will never give up on you, for you are our family and we will see that you are saved!



December 17, 2018

The Honourable Caroline Mulroney
Attorney General
Ministry of the Attorney General
McMurtry-Scott Building
720 Bay Street, 11th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 2S9

Dear Minister,

On behalf of the Ontario Veterinary Medical Association (OVMA) and over 4,000 veterinarians in the Province of Ontario, I am writing to you today to encourage you to work collaboratively towards the repeal of breed specific language from the *Dog Owner's Liability Act (DOLA)* and the *Animals for Research Act*.

OVMA has been a strong advocate for legislation that ensures the public is adequately protected from dangerous dogs of any breed. However, OVMA does not support legislation that deems that a dog is dangerous based solely on its breed or appearance, regardless of whether it has demonstrated that it poses a threat to public safety. Since the *Dog Owners Liability Act* was amended in 2005, effectively banning pit bulls from the province, well over 1,000 dogs that had never attacked an animal or person or exhibited any threatening behavior have been euthanized in Ontario. The needless destruction of these dogs represents a serious animal welfare issue and runs counter to the wishes of Ontarians.¹

Veterinarians, by their nature and training, take a science-based approach to any issue, including aggressive behaviour in dogs. Based on an extensive review of available research on the subject, OVMA has concluded that Breed Specific Legislation (BSL) is not an effective method of reducing the number of dog bites in humans, and that it has resulted in significant negative consequences for both people and dogs in Ontario. Although such bans might comfort individuals who have had unpleasant experiences with particular breeds or who have heard of attacks by specific dog breeds in the media, a breed-specific ban does not effectively regulate dogs that should be considered dangerous, regardless of breed. While Ontario-wide statistics are not readily available, the number of reported dog bites in Toronto has risen in recent years, even though the number of pit bulls in Toronto has drastically decreased as a result of the ban. In fact, the pit bull ban was so ineffective in controlling dog bites in Toronto that the city was forced to enact a new municipal by-law in 2017 to address the dangerous dog issue.

As per the article *Community Approach to Dog Bite Prevention*, featured in the *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association* (2001), BSL implies that there is an objective method of determining the breed of a particular dog. However, current research shows that there is no accurate method to distinguish between breeds. Owners of mixed-breed dogs or dogs that have not been registered with a national kennel club have no way of knowing whether their dog is one of the types identified and whether they are required to comply with the legislation.

¹A 2016 Angus Reid Poll on the issue found that 63% of Ontario opposed banning specific dog breeds.

In addition, law enforcement personnel typically have no scientific means for determining a dog's breed that can withstand the rigours of legal challenge. This has led to bias amongst those enforcing this ban, again resulting in the unnecessary deaths of dogs which merely resembled a pit bull.

Research has clearly shown that a more effective approach to dealing with dangerous dogs would be to improve bite prevention education and implement non-breed-specific, dangerous dog laws which place the primary responsibility for a dog's behavior on the owner, regardless of the dog's breed. For example, the Province could increase the penalties available to the courts when a dog owner fails to act appropriately to safeguard the public from his or her dog. Working with veterinarians, breeders and other interested parties, the Province could also educate the public about how to choose a dog that is appropriate for their lifestyle, how to properly train their dog, and how to recognize aggressive behavior sooner, to aid in the prevention of potential attacks.

Such an approach would also benefit Ontario taxpayers, who have been burdened with the costs associated with enforcing the breed-specific ban. At a time when the Province is in a deficit position, the money spent on enforcement personnel and court proceedings trying to prove dogs are pit bulls could surely be better spent providing Ontarians with essential services.

In closing, it is clear that breed-specific legislation has not worked in Ontario. It has simply resulted in the unnecessary deaths of countless dogs that have never harmed anyone or anything. OVMA therefore urges the Province of Ontario to correct this injustice and repeal the breed-specific ban under the *Dog Owner's Liability Act* (DOLA) and the *Animals for Research Act*.

We welcome an opportunity to meet and discuss our research and position on the matter, as well as possible amendments to the Acts in question. If you or your staff have any questions regarding our position on the issue, please do not hesitate to contact OVMA's Manager of Government and External Relations, Brandi Deimling at bdeimling@ovma.org, or 1-800-670-1702, ext. 224.

Sincerely,



Dr. Gwen Jeun
President

CC'ed:

Mr. David Piccini
MPP for Northumberland/Peterborough South

Honourable Sylvia Jones
Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services

CANADA DOG BITE FATALITIES 1962 - Present

<u>Date of Attack</u>	<u>Type of dog as reported by Media</u>	<u># of Dogs</u>	<u>Victim Information</u>	<u>Victim's Name</u>	<u>Circumstances</u>	<u>Location</u>
2-Jan-62	Stray Dogs	Pack	6yrs-F	D. Richards	Attacked by dogs when walking home	Ontario
1-Jan-63	Nordic/Sled type	Pack	Adult-M	N/A Eskimo	Fell through ice then attacked by dogs	Canada
4-Jan-64	Sled dogs	5	12 yrs - M	Eugene Tuccaro	Exercising team & fell in front of them	Canada
19-Sep-64	Sled dog	1	3 yrs - M	Richard Scott	Child wandered to tied dogs	Alberta
1-Feb-66	Dogs	4	5 yrs - F	<i>Unknown</i>	Loose dogs attacked & killed girl	Manitoba
30-May-66	Golden Retriever	1	20 mo - F	Angela Monaghan	Attacked by family farm dog	Ontario
19-Apr-68	Dog	1	6 yrs - M	Steven Sirosky	Wandered to chained dog	Ontario
14-Mar-71	Sled Dogs	<i>Ukn.</i>	5 yrs - F	Suzannah Wootten	Killed by sled dogs	N.W.T.
4-Mar-74	Sled dogs	2	5 yrs - M	Roy Beardy	Attacked on Split Lake Reserve	Manitoba
20-Sep-77	Dog team	Pack	3 yrs - M	David Moses	Found in kennel of tied dog team	Yukon
1-Mar-78	Sled dogs	5	37 yrs - F	Bella Nidipchie	Entered dogs in sled race	N.W.T.
5-Jun-79	Dogs	2	5 yrs - M	<i>Unknown</i>	Boy attacked by loose dogs	NFLD
27-Jun-79	Sled Dogs	12	5 yrs-F	<i>Dariane Blouin</i>	Children playing around newly acquired sled dogs bought by father. 11 chained & 1 loose dog.	Tite-des-Caps Quebec
9-Jul-79	Husky/Malamute	1	3 mo - M	Patrick Cadorette	Baby was in a carriage then bitten in neck by recently unchained neighbour's dog	Disraeli, Quebec
3-Aug-79	Guard dogs/strays	<i>Ukn.</i>	9 yrs - M	Gus Apostolakos	Guard dogs fighting with stray dogs	Ontario
c. 1980	Husky sled dogs	4	3 yrs - M	<i>Unknown</i>	Boy crawled under fence	Winnipeg
22-Mar-83	Farm dogs	2	3 yrs - M	Nolton Nanninga	Roaming farm dogs near his home	Edmonton, Alberta
6-Apr-87	GSD/Coyote X	1	5 yrs - F	Dawn Witowski	Grandmother's chained dog	Vernon, BC
1-May-88	Nordic/Husky type	1	17 mo - M	F.Trembley - Juneau	Wandered to chained resident neighbour's dog	Charlesbourg, Quebec

10-Oct-88	Sled Dog	1	4yr - M	Mathieu D'Amboise	Chained female dog used for breeding purposes. Had 3 litters in 14 months. Had puppies, fed 1 time per day	Girardville, Quebec
31-Mar-89	Rottweiler & Doberman	2	4 yrs - M	Michael Purtil	Killed on campground by dogs	Ontario
2-Apr-90	Chow chow	1	< 30 days - F	Katherine Koitai	Family dog overturned bassinet	Ontario
25-Jul-93	Sled dog	> 1	8 yrs - F	Rita Angmarlik	Tried to feed bone to tethered dogs	N.W.T
31-Dec-93	Sled dog	5	11 yrs - F	Michelle Whitehead	Loose dogs on lonely roadway	Alberta
22-Sep-94	Maremma sheepdog	1	17 mo - F	Jennifer Needham	Got between male and female in heat	Ontario
15-Aug-95	American Staffordshire Terrier	2	22 yrs - M	Joseph Peters	Drunken roommate provoked dogs by going after owner with a bat	Toronto, Ontario
14-Dec-95	German shepherd	2	6 yrs - M	Lang Forsyth	Uncle's dogs and farm	Saskatchewan
18-Jun-96	Strays	4	3 yrs - M	Desmond McKay	Killed by strays on Cross Lake reservation	Manitoba
12-Jun-97	American Pit Bull Terrier	1	7 yr-F	Sharon Reynolds	Neighbour's dog in basement for days. Mother charged but cleared 2001. <i>CAVEAT: Pathologists disagree if stab wounds or bites therefore case can not be accurately included as a dog related fatality.</i>	Kingston, Ontario
27-Sep-97	Sled dog (Wolf X?)	1	3 yrs - M	Unknown	Wandered to tied dog in junk yard. (Puppies also found)	Saskatchewan
27-Nov-97	Rottweiler	1	3 yrs - M	Jonathan King	Chained dog broke loose	Ontario
15-Mar-98	Sled dogs	Pack	6 yrs - F	Leah Tikivik	Wandered to dogs staked on sea ice	Iqaluit, Nunavut
29-Apr-98	Bull Mastiff	1	8 yrs - F	Courtney Trempe	Playing in neighbour's backyard	Ontario
16-Aug-98	Sled dog (Lab Huskies)	8	10 yrs - M 44 yrs - F	Daniel Obed / Betty Gauntlett	Attacked and killed on island. Mother & Son picking blueberries. Was discovered dogs were left for the summer alone on Island	NFLD
21-Dec-98	Strays	6	8 yrs - M	Kelson Frogg	Killed by a pack of strays on Cross Lake reservation	Manitoba
7-Mar-99	Husky X	1	3 yrs - F	Unknown	Playing in her yard	BC
31-May-99	Husky/Sled Dog	1	2 yrs - M	Nicolas Boudreau	Child sent out to play got tangled up in chain of dog in kennel. 23 other dogs lived on the property.	St. Charles de-Mandeville, Quebec
27-Jul-99	Husky X	1	2 yrs - M	Morris Lockhart	Attacked while with Mother at Grandmother's home	N.W.T.
27-Nov-99	Mixed breeds	Pack	5 yrs - F	Cecilia Alook	Loose, possibly starving dogs	Alberta

27-Jan-03	Rottweiler & Lab X	2	4 yrs - F	Kyra - Lee Sibthorpe	Visiting Stepfather - his dogs	Ontario
1-Mar-03	Rottweilers	3	4 yrs - M	James Waddell	Visiting with Father at house. Father's dogs.	New Brunswick
13-Oct-03	German Shepherd X	4	3 yrs - M	Travis Colomb	At Grandmother's house. Killed by 4 of 15 dogs at residence. Chain broken.	Manitoba
27-Dec-04	Rottweilers & Border Collie	2 to 4	3 yrs - M	Cody John Anger	Family Rotti & Collie. 2 visiting Rotties on property were released from basement and attacked child in living room	Port Coquitlam, BC
ONTARIO PUTS IN PROVINCIAL BREED BAN; TARGETING 3 BREEDS						
30-May-06	Jack Russell/Border Collie X OR Lab/Pit Bull cross <i>Official label by the animal behavior expert as Mix breed</i>	1	77 yrs - M	John Martin	Dog attacked owner in yard. Man playfully pushed wife and dog bit the man's throat. <i>The true identification/breed of the dog was impossible to delineate, other than the fact that it was a mixed breed, as confirmed in court testimony in 2006 by the animal behavior expert who assessed the situation on behalf of the Ontario coroners office. The dog was officially labeled as a mixed breed, due to lack of DNA evidence and impossibility of accurate or reliable visual identification.</i>	Ontario
15-Jun-06	Husky X	2	3 yrs - M	Rory Clipping	Attacked by dogs on reserve. Dogs were owned, not strays	Manitoba
27-Jul-06	Mixed (Husky Xs)	2	2 yrs - M	Derian Bird	Wandered to chained/loose dogs.	Manitoba
16-Nov-06	Mixed breeds	5	5 yrs - M	Lance Ribbonleg	Loose, roaming dogs on road	Alberta
18-Jan-07	Pack strays	5	5 yrs - M	Unknown	Attacked near home by strays	Saskatchewan
1-Jul-07	Rottweiler/ Shepherd X	1	17 mo - F	Korie Lyn Edwards	Grandparent's tied dog	Ontario
20-Jan-10	Mixed breed strays	2 to 4	9 yrs - M	Keith Checkosis Iron	Loose, roaming and neglected dogs. Coronor suggests 1st priority early childhood education. Then licensing & culling strays.	Candle Lake Cree Nation Saskatchewan
22-Mar-10	Sled type dogs	3	4 yrs - M	Samock Akpialialuk	Resident dogs escaped from confinement and chains	Nunavut
25-Mar-11	N/A	<1	Adult Male	Unknown	Had previous tiny cut on hand. Bitten by dog while separating 2 dogs at park on Mar 23rd and got a Sepsis Infection.	Vancouver, BC
6-Jun-11	Huskys	2	21 days - F	M. Trembley- Beaulieu	Baby left alone in kitchen with several dogs. Coroner's sole recommendation was preventive education	Quebec
21-Aug-11	Husky Mixes	2	1 yr - F	Flora Francis	Mosquito First Nation. 1 year old wandered into dog's yard.	Saskatchewan
16-Feb-12	Husky	1	Newborn - M	Grayson Fradette	Baby in crib, dog in crate. Baby cried and dog got loose and killed baby. Maybe trying to move the child.	Alberta
1-Jan-13	Stray dog or dogs (no breed identified)	1 or more	15 - M	Leon Anderson	Loose roaming dogs 550 km NE of Winnipeg near God's Lake	1st Nation, Alberta

11-Jul-13	Boxer Cross	1	Adult Male	Unknown	Slept with dog. Coroners report suggests facial bite triggered by man's seizures. Died from Sepsis infection within days.	B.C.
17-Mar-14	Malamutes	2	7 yrs - F	Gracie Hernitier - Clark	Circumstances unclear. Visiting family friends.	Manitoba
14-Jun-14	Husky/Sled dog type	1	4 yrs - F	Sheena Uqaituk	Child approached neighbour's chained dog.	Quebec
17-Oct-15	Pack of Northern dogs	4	22 yrs - M	Shane Glada	Killed and eaten by pack of dogs while walking.	Yukon
22-Oct-15	Unknown	1	Adult Male	Unknown	Superficial bite Oct 18 from a family member's dog which became infected. Died 3 days later from a Sepsis infection.	BC
30-Jan-16	Mixed breed	1	78 yrs - F	Kathleen Green	Attacked in backyard by a chained dog who was tied up to neighbours mobile home. Killed while attempting to feed dog.	BC
27-Mar-16	Unknown	2	Adult Female	Unknown	Bit on foot by dog March 23. Dogs were fighting over a bone. Died 4 days later from Sepsis infection.	BC
6-Jun-16	Northern dog	1	4 yrs - F	Unknown	Child approached neighbour's chained dog.	Nunavut
16-Jun-16	Reg as Boxer mix. Police said Pit Bull	1	55 yrs - F	Christine Vadnais	Dog "Lucifer" broke out of his yard and attacked victim while sunbathing in her yard. 2 previous attacks on record. See CI.	Montreal, Quebec
13-May-17	Northern mixed breeds	30	24 yrs - F	Donnelly Rose Eaglestick	Found dead at water treatment plant surrounded by 30 dogs	Manitoba
13-Sep-17	Alaskan Malamutes	2	6 yrs - M	Cameron Mushanski	Killed by Grandparent's dogs. Coronor has a ongoing investigation.	Saskatchewan
15-Sep-18	Boxer Cross	1	50 yrs - F	Lisa Lloyds	Killed by chained dog in her back yard.	Chestermere, AB
23-Sep-19	Northern mixed breeds	2	2 yrs - M	unknown	killed by wild northern type dogs who were circling the area looking for food	Gods Lake, MB

ANNEX 3 RESULTS OF THE VOTE FOR BILL 16 IN 2012

Feb 23 Vote	Party ID	First	Last	Salutation	Riding	E-mail
ABS	LIB	Laura	Albanese	Ms. Laura Albanese	York South--Weston	lalbanese.mpp@liberal.ola.org
ABS	LIB	Bas	Balkissoon	Mr. Bas Balkissoon	Scarborough--Rouge River	bbalkissoon.mpp@liberal.ola.org
ABS	LIB	Rick	Bartolucci	Hon Mr. Rick Bartolucci	Sudbury	rbartolucci.mpp@liberal.ola.org
ABS	LIB	Christopher	Bentley	Hon Mr. Christopher Bentley	London West	cbentley.mpp@liberal.ola.org
ABS	LIB	Margarett R.	Best	Hon Ms. Margarett R. Best	Scarborough--Guildwood	mbest.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org
ABS	LIB	Laurel C.	Broten	Hon Ms. Laurel C. Broten	Etobicoke--Lakeshore	lbroten.mpp@liberal.ola.org
ABS	LIB	Donna H.	Cansfield	Ms. Donna H. Cansfield	Etobicoke Centre	dcansfield.mpp@liberal.ola.org
ABS	LIB	Michael	Chan	Hon Mr. Michael Chan	Markham--Unionville	mchan.mpp@liberal.ola.org
ABS	LIB	Bob	Chiarelli	Hon Mr. Bob Chiarelli	Ottawa West--Nepean	bchiarelli.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org
ABS	LIB	Dwight	Duncan	Hon Mr. Dwight Duncan	Windsor--Tecumseh	dduncan.mpp@liberal.ola.org
ABS	LIB	John	Gerretsen	Hon Mr. John Gerretsen	Kingston and the Islands	jgerretsen.mpp@liberal.ola.org
ABS	LIB	Michael	Gravelle	Hon Mr. Michael Gravelle	Thunder Bay--Superior North	mgravelle.mpp@liberal.ola.org
ABS	LIB	Eric	Hoskins	Hon Mr. Eric Hoskins	St. Paul's	ehoskins.mpp@liberal.ola.org
ABS	LIB	Dave	Levac	Hon Mr. Dave Levac	Brant	dlevac.mpp@liberal.ola.org
ABS	LIB	Deborah	Matthews	Hon Ms. Deborah Matthews	London North Centre	dmatthews.mpp@liberal.ola.org
ABS	LIB	Bill	Mauro	Mr. Bill Mauro	Thunder Bay--Atikokan	bmauro.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org
ABS	LIB	Dalton	McGuinty	Hon Mr. Dalton McGuinty	Ottawa South	dmcguinty.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org
ABS	LIB	Phil	McNeely	Mr. Phil McNeely	Ottawa--Orléans	pmcneely.mpp@liberal.ola.org
ABS	LIB	Madeleine	Meilleur	Hon Ms. Madeleine Meilleur	Ottawa--Vanier	mmeilleur.mpp@liberal.ola.org
ABS	LIB	John	Milloy	Hon Mr. John Milloy	Kitchener Centre	jmilloy.mpp@liberal.ola.org
ABS	LIB	David	Oraziatti	Mr. David Oraziatti	Sault Ste. Marie	doraziatti.mpp@liberal.ola.org
ABS	LIB	Liz	Sandals	Ms. Liz Sandals	Guelph	lsandals.mpp@liberal.ola.org
ABS	LIB	Greg	Sorbara	Mr. Greg Sorbara	Vaughan	gsorbara.mpp@liberal.ola.org
ABS	LIB	Harinder S.	Takhar	Hon Mr. Harinder S. Takhar	Mississauga--Erindale	htakhar.mpp@liberal.ola.org
ABS	NDP	France	Gélinas	Ms. France Gélinas	Nickel Belt	fgelinas-qp@ndp.on.ca
ABS	PC	Lisa	MacLeod	Ms. Lisa MacLeod	Nepean--Carleton	lisa.macleod@pc.ola.org
ABS	PC	Norm	Miller	Mr. Norm Miller	Parry Sound--Muskoka	norm.millerco@pc.ola.org
ABS	PC	Randy	Pettapiece	Mr. Randy Pettapiece	Perth--Wellington	randy.pettapiece@pc.ola.org
ABS	PC	Elizabeth	Witmer	Ms. Elizabeth Witmer	Kitchener--Waterloo	elizabeth.witmer@pc.ola.org
ABS	PC	John	Yakabuski	Mr. John Yakabuski	Renfrew--Nipissing--Pembroke	john.yakabuski@pc.ola.org
AYE	LIB	Mike	Colle	Mr. Mike Colle	Eglinton--Lawrence	mcolle.mpp@liberal.ola.org
AYE	LIB	Grant	Crack	Mr. Grant Crack	Glengarry--Prescott--Russell	gcrack.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org
AYE	LIB	Kim	Craitor	Mr. Kim Craitor	Niagara Falls	kcraitor.mpp@liberal.ola.org
AYE	NDP	Teresa J.	Armstrong	Ms. Teresa J. Armstrong	London--Fanshawe	tarmstrong-qp@ndp.on.ca

AYE	NDP	Gilles	Bisson	Mr. Gilles Bisson	Timmins--James Bay	gbisson@ndp.on.ca
AYE	NDP	Sarah	Campbell	Ms. Sarah Campbell	Kenora--Rainy River	scfort@vianet.ca
AYE	NDP	Cheri	DiNovo	Ms. Cheri DiNovo	Parkdale--High Park	dinovoc-qp@ndp.on.ca
AYE	NDP	Cindy	Forster	Ms. Cindy Forster	Welland	cforster-qp@ndp.on.ca
AYE	NDP	Andrea	Horwath	Ms. Andrea Horwath	Hamilton Centre	ahorwath-qp@ndp.on.ca
AYE	NDP	Michael	Mantha	Mr. Michael Mantha	Algoma--Manitoulin	mmantha-qp@ndp.on.ca
AYE	NDP	Rosario	Marchese	Mr. Rosario Marchese	Trinity--Spadina	rmarchese-co@ndp.on.ca
AYE	NDP	Paul	Miller	Mr. Paul Miller	Hamilton East--Stoney Creek	pmiller-qp@ndp.on.ca
AYE	NDP	Taras	Natyshak	Mr. Taras Natyshak	Essex	tnatyshak-qp@ndp.on.ca
AYE	NDP	Michael	Prue	Mr. Michael Prue	Beaches--East York	mprue-qp@ndp.on.ca
AYE	NDP	Jonah	Schein	Mr. Jonah Schein	Davenport	jschein-qp@ndp.on.ca
AYE	NDP	Jagmeet	Singh	Mr. Jagmeet Singh	Bramalea--Gore--Malton	jsingh-qp@ndp.on.ca
AYE	NDP	Peter	Tabuns	Mr. Peter Tabuns	Toronto--Danforth	tabunsp-qp@ndp.on.ca
AYE	NDP	Monique	Taylor	Ms. Monique Taylor	Hamilton Mountain	mtaylor-qp@ndp.on.ca
AYE	NDP	John	Vanthof	Mr. John Vanthof	Timiskaming--Cochrane	jvanthof-qp@ndp.on.ca
AYE	PC	Ted	Arnott	Mr. Ted Arnott	Wellington--Halton Hills	ted.arnott@pc.ola.org
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AYE	PC	Toby	Barrett	Mr. Toby Barrett	Haldimand--Norfolk	toby.barrett@pc.ola.org
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NAY	LIB	Michael	Coteau	Mr. Michael Coteau	Don Valley East	mcoteau.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org
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NAY	LIB	Vic	Dhillon	Mr. Vic Dhillon	Brampton West	vdhillon.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org
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NAY	LIB	Charles	Sousa	Hon Mr. Charles Sousa	Mississauga South	csousa.mpp@liberal.ola.org
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NAY	LIB	Kathleen O	Wynne	H. Ms. Kathleen O. Wynne	Don Valley West	kwynne.mpp@liberal.ola.org
NAY	LIB	David	Zimmer	Mr. David Zimmer	Willowdale	dzimmer.mpp@liberal.ola.org

Safety and Awareness around Your Dog... and When you meet a dog you don't know...



*Safety and Awareness Around Your Dog... and When You
Meet a Dog You Don't Know... by Allie Brophy*

Educational
Project For
School Age
Children

**Educational Project for School Age Children to help promote Awareness, Safety
and Responsible behaviour around all dogs**

Topics Covered

Never Hug Or Stroke A Dog You Don't Know

Always Ask The Owner AND The Dog For Permission First

Always Keep Your Face Away From Dogs

Never Squeeze Or Grab A Dog And Don't Try To Pick Them Up

Keeping Safe With Your Own Dog

Always Treat Dogs With Kindness And Respect

Never Approach When A Dog Is Playing With A Bone Or Toy

Never Disturb A Dog When He Is Sleeping Or Eating His Food

Always Clean Up After Your Dog During Walks

Behaving Responsibly Around Dogs

Bad Owners

Good Owners

Dogs Have Feelings Too

Some Important Points To Remember

Young Children And Babies Must Always Be Supervised Around Dogs

Never Approach A Dog With Her Puppies, In A Car, Or If Tied Up Outside A Shop

Every Dog Is Different Just Like Every Person Is Different

Sometimes Dogs Don't Like Each Other

Encourage Good Behaviour Towards Cats And Other Animals

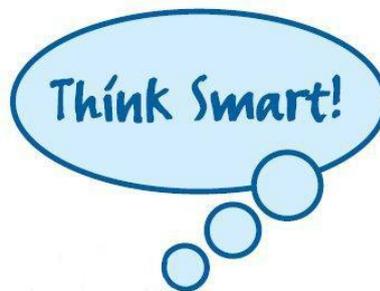
Stay Away From A Dog You Don't Know And What To Do If A Stray Dog Approaches You

Dogs Are Part Of Our Family Too

Always Report Anyone You See Being Cruel Towards An Animal

Love And Respect Your Pet

Educational Project prepared for School age Children by Allie Brophy to help promote awareness, welfare, safety and responsible behaviour around all dogs. Thank you to everyone for kind permission of use of their photographs in this project and also to Anna Maria Quilliam. I do not own any of the pictures or diagrams used in this Presentation © August 2012



Wait First, Think, AND ASK...

NEVER go into a garden where a dog is tied up or outside if you do not know the dog well and he doesn't know you - He may think you are a burglar!!!



Always wait until an adult is with you before meeting any dog you don't know. Ask the owner's permission first to stroke or pet their dog. If their dog is feeling tired, grumpy, ill or stressed he may not want to be petted right then or approached by anyone, especially strangers. When we feel tired or ill we don't always feel sociable ourselves or want hugs.

NEVER HUG OR STROKE A DOG YOU DON'T KNOW - To the dog you

are a stranger, he does not know who you are and may not like being touched or stroked by people he doesn't know. He may struggle to get away from you or even bite. And **Never** try to kiss a strange dog on their face. Instead gently stroke their chest or the side of their neck.

As well as asking the owner for permission you must also ask the dog. Let the dog sniff you or let him come to you and show signs of happiness **first** before you pet the dog. **Never** hold out your fingers or touch him on top of his head.

Ask the dog.



If he looks scared, growls or backs away **leave him alone**.

Don't put your hands in the dog's face or try to pick him up as this may scare him. He can get frightened if too many people crowd around him and this may cause him to panic or nip. Dogs feel worried just like us if strangers approach them and you must always first ask the owner, as they are responsible for the dog. If you are with an adult check with them too that it is ok if the owner has given permission.

Pet the dog gently under the chin. Be gentle. Sometimes a dog may be scared if a person he doesn't know goes to pat them on their head or hug them as he doesn't know that you are friendly until he gets to know you and he may not want to be hugged. Always keep your face away from dogs.



If a dog is over excited and happy they may jump up to try and kiss you. Always keep your head up high or turn your back away from the dog so they don't accidentally bump you on the face while saying hello.

Never stare a dog in the eye, he may think you are challenging him.

Never squeeze or grab a dog, and don't try to pick them up because this can frighten them too and make them feel uncomfortable. A dog may have a sore tummy for example or may not be used to strangers and could bite you if they are feeling anxious, unwell or scared.

There can be many reasons why a dog may not want to be hugged or stroked by people. Sometimes a dog is not feeling well or is too hot from the heat, he could be being bitten by fleas and feels fed up, he just wants to go home and rest or he needs a drink of water and some food to eat.



KEEPING SAFE WITH YOUR OWN DOG

Dogs are not toys, they are real living breathing animals and they feel pain and hurt just like we do. They are part of the family and live as our companions. We must treat them with love, compassion and understanding.

If someone hurts us we are able to cry, shout or ask them to stop. Dogs can't speak so they can't tell us they are sore or that they feel scared, and they can't ask you to stop so they may bite instead if they are in pain.



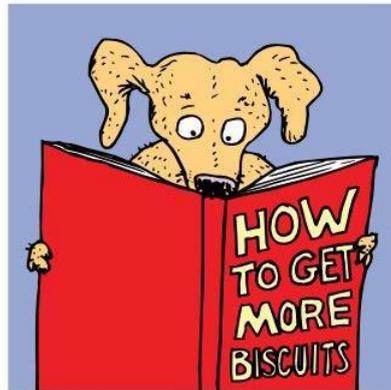
We must avoid this from happening and always keep them and ourselves **safe** at all times by acting responsibly around animals.

Dogs must always be treated with kindness and understanding of their needs and behaviours just like us. They need to be taught toilet training and may sometimes have 'accidents' inside the house when they are unable to get outside. You must **Never** scream at them or hurt them. When someone shouts or screams at us when we make a mistake how does that make us feel? Dogs are like children and they learn from us so we must teach them positively. We give them treats and rewards for good behaviour. Sometimes we may need to call in a dog trainer to help us with any problems so that we can make things better for ourselves and the dog too. This is being a good responsible owner and it helps our dogs build up their confidence and become better behaved.

Dogs just like us, need food, water, a safe place to sleep, warm bedding, and toys to play with. Leaving music on for dogs when you leave the house for short periods helps soothe and relax them so they do not feel 'alone'.

Dogs love to see people at home being happy and kind to each other as they pick up how we feel, especially through their leads during walks and this affects them too. They can feel very frightened if they hear people shouting and fighting. A good happy and healthy home environment is very

important and also helps to raise a happier dog.



Dogs like to chew things, especially when they are puppies. Keep your best shoes out of reach while a puppy is teething and give your dog some chews and toys to play with instead so they don't get bored or frustrated.

When a dog is playing with a bone or a toy you must **NEVER** approach him.



He may think you are trying to take his bone away from him and may try to bite you. Leave him alone with his bone. **This is very important that you remember.**

NEVER disturb a dog when he is sleeping or eating his food. This is his time to himself that he likes away from people and he must be left alone to eat. How would you feel if you were hungry and someone took your dinner away from you? Dogs must be left to eat their dinner in peace just like us. Always clean up after your dog when you are out on walks. Using a nappy sack or any bag you **must** put any toilet mess in a bin.



Parents should supervise all contact between children and dogs, and end this contact if the dog is getting over-excited, anxious, or if the child is bothering the dog. If there is a lot of noise and activity going on or strange people around, the dog may be happier in a crate or in another part of the house where it is quieter.

NEVER run and scream loudly where there are dogs around because it could make them feel very scared and cause them to possibly chase or attack like they would instinctively out in the wild. And **always** remember to keep gates CLOSED to stop your dog from escaping out onto the roads.



There are no 'bad' dogs, only bad owners. Any breed of dog can be a wonderful family companion with good people who are responsible and willing to do the work to train their dogs, to teach them good behaviour or try to correct any problems. Before you take on a dog first do some research and decide if the kind of dog you are looking for fits into your family, your daily routine and that you understand the breed first and are able to give the dog a good happy forever home.



Any dog big or small takes work, patience and understanding. They are a brand new member of your family and need time to settle in. Adopting a dog from a rescue centre can offer a wonderful new and exciting opportunity for both you, your family and your special dog companion. Dogs can also very quickly settle well into a new home. Most dogs can follow family rules, be easily trained, and they enjoy having company. A dog can also provide protection by barking when strangers are around.

Dogs love being part of your family and are very loyal pets.



Bad owners are people who are cruel to their dogs, who neglect them, abuse them, or train them aggressively. This is **wrong**. Dogs who are treated aggressively are likely to become aggressive in turn. Treating any dog badly is wrong and can also get the owner in a lot of trouble.



Good owners look after their dogs well, they are responsible and caring. They make sure their dogs have everything they need such as good food and water, and a safe warm place to sleep that is comfortable, and they register their dogs with a good vet to look after their health. They take their dogs out walking, spend time with them and if needed they take their dogs to a training class to help sort out any problems for the dog and owner. A good dog trainer can help you and your dog enormously.



DOGS HAVE FEELINGS TOO

You must NEVER ever hit, kick or shout at a dog or pull his ears or tail. This is wrong, it hurts him and this could cause him an injury. It can also frighten him very much which may then cause him to growl, nip or even bite you. You would not want anyone to do this to you so please do not do

this to a dog. How do you think he will feel?

Hurting an animal deliberately can also get you in trouble. If you see anyone either on their own or in a group, if they are deliberately hurting an animal or causing them pain **please tell a responsible adult.**



You could save their life.

SOME IMPORTANT POINTS TO REMEMBER

Young children especially babies or toddlers must **NEVER** ever be left alone with any dog. Never let younger children pull a dog's ears or tail, this could cause a dog to become very scared and if a dog is scared they may bite to let you know they are frightened. Make sure a responsible adult is around you at all times and a baby is **NEVER** left alone.

There must always be a responsible adult supervising to ensure everyone including the dog is kept safe.



Don't poke them or prod them, they FEEL.



Dogs can become terrified of babies or children's loud screams, and running around and waving as they play. Dogs are very sensitive and they react to the tone of our voices so hearing a toddler's screams could really hurt a dog's ears, make him feel stressed and cause him to panic. They do not understand each other or how to behave around one another so young children should ALWAYS be supervised with ANY dog - big or small.

Stay away from a dog when he is eating his food, sleeping, playing with a bone or drinking. This is his private space and time where he likes to be left alone. If he wants to come to you he will, but **Never** disturb him.



If you see a dog tied up outside a shop remember **NEVER** to tease or approach the dog, they may possibly bite you if they are scared and do not know you. **Don't** crowd around or approach dogs sat inside a car either as this can also frighten them. **Never** approach a dog with her puppies. Dogs protect their babies and may think you are trying to hurt them.

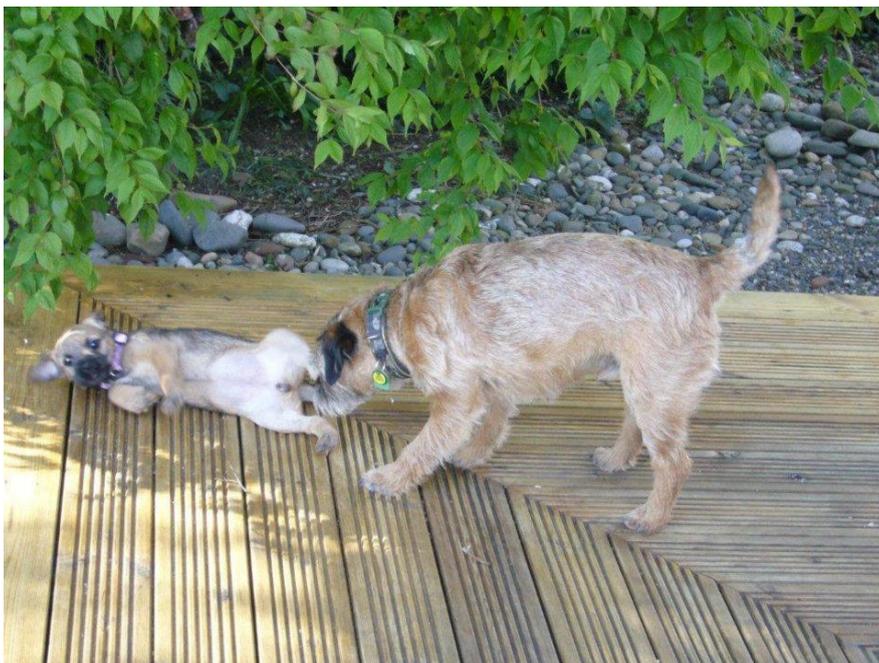


Every dog is different just like every person is different.



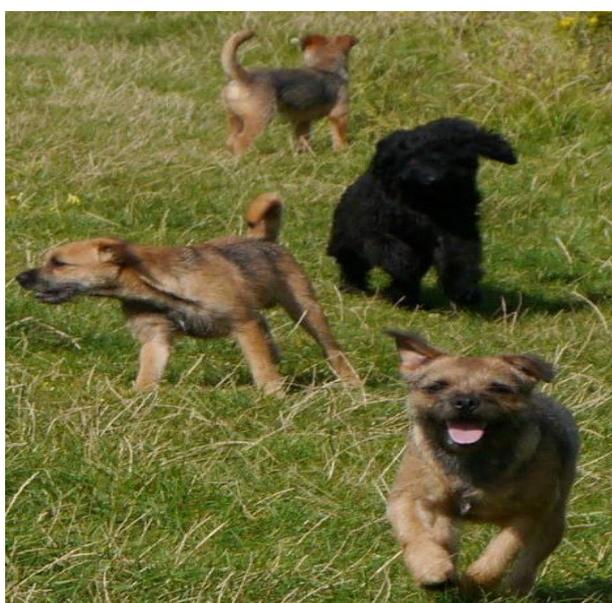
They all have their own personality, feelings, likes and dislikes about playing, meeting people and how close they prefer other dogs getting to them. They can easily learn new tricks, and are used to obeying a leader.

Some dogs feel comfortable when meeting other strange dogs, but many dogs prefer first to be introduced to them properly and slowly over a period of time before they feel at ease. Not all dogs feel comfortable about other dogs coming up to them in the street especially if they don't know them as this could cause them to feel afraid and perhaps protective of you if they think you may be in danger.



Dogs like to sniff each other first which helps them identify the other dog if they are male or female.

Not all dogs like or get along with each other just like some humans don't like or get along with each other. And just as sometimes humans may shout at each other or tell someone to go away, dogs may growl, snarl or bark at another dog. This is their way of giving a warning by saying 'back off' and can sometimes be if they are nervous, ill or not properly trained or socialized yet with other dogs. Sometimes it can also be due to a dog having had a bad experience with another dog and is now afraid of other dogs or simply he does not like other dogs so **be careful** when out walking.



You must always be respectful around animals and take care not to hurt them, even accidentally. If you step on his tail or his paw or hurt his ears he cannot tell you he is in pain so he may bite instead. Dogs have feelings like us so if you poke him in the eye or kick him how do you think this will make him feel? Dogs feel pain too but they cannot tell us they are hurting which is what may cause them to bite.

Dogs can become very sad and afraid when they hear people shouting and screaming and this sometimes can cause a dog to bite, as he doesn't know what's going on and can think it's his fault everyone is shouting.



How do you think this dog feels? Have you ever felt this way?

You must always make sure you keep your dog on the lead when you are out walking and keep him close to you. Just because a dog growls or barks it does not mean they are 'aggressive', it is their way of saying they don't like the other dog so you need to **keep your dog away**.

If your dog growls or snaps at another dog pull him away immediately from the other dog and tell him NO!! If this is an anxiety issue then taking your dog to a good trainer can help with this and help build your confidence and skills too.

Walks should be an enjoyable experience for both you AND your dog.



Dogs sometimes try to chase cats, but **never ever** let your dog be aggressive towards a cat or other animal or try to hurt them. Encourage good behaviour in your dog by showing respect towards other animals and teaching your dog to do the same. This is being a good responsible pet owner. All animals have feelings just like us and it is wrong to harm them.



If you see any child or adult deliberately hurting a dog or other animal **REPORT it immediately** to a responsible adult or teacher.

Have you ever found yourself lost in town and felt worried or scared as you looked around to find your parents? Dogs can feel like this too if they are lost. Stray dogs are often scared if they have lost their owner and they may bite if they see a stranger approach them and they think you are going to hurt them. **Stay away** from a dog you see wandering by himself. Let an adult know if you see a dog by himself and ask them to help. Never run away from a dog and never ever hit or yell at a dog. He will think you are going to hurt him and may try to protect himself and hurt you because he is scared.



If a stray dog does approach you, stand very still like a tree so that he knows you are safe and won't hurt him. Look away from the dog, don't speak, and in your head count very slowly to yourself until he loses interest and goes away. **NEVER** throw anything at a dog or try to make him aggressive.

That is **NOT** responsible behaviour and is very unfair to the dog.

Some dogs can be trained to work, rescue, or be trained as therapy dogs.

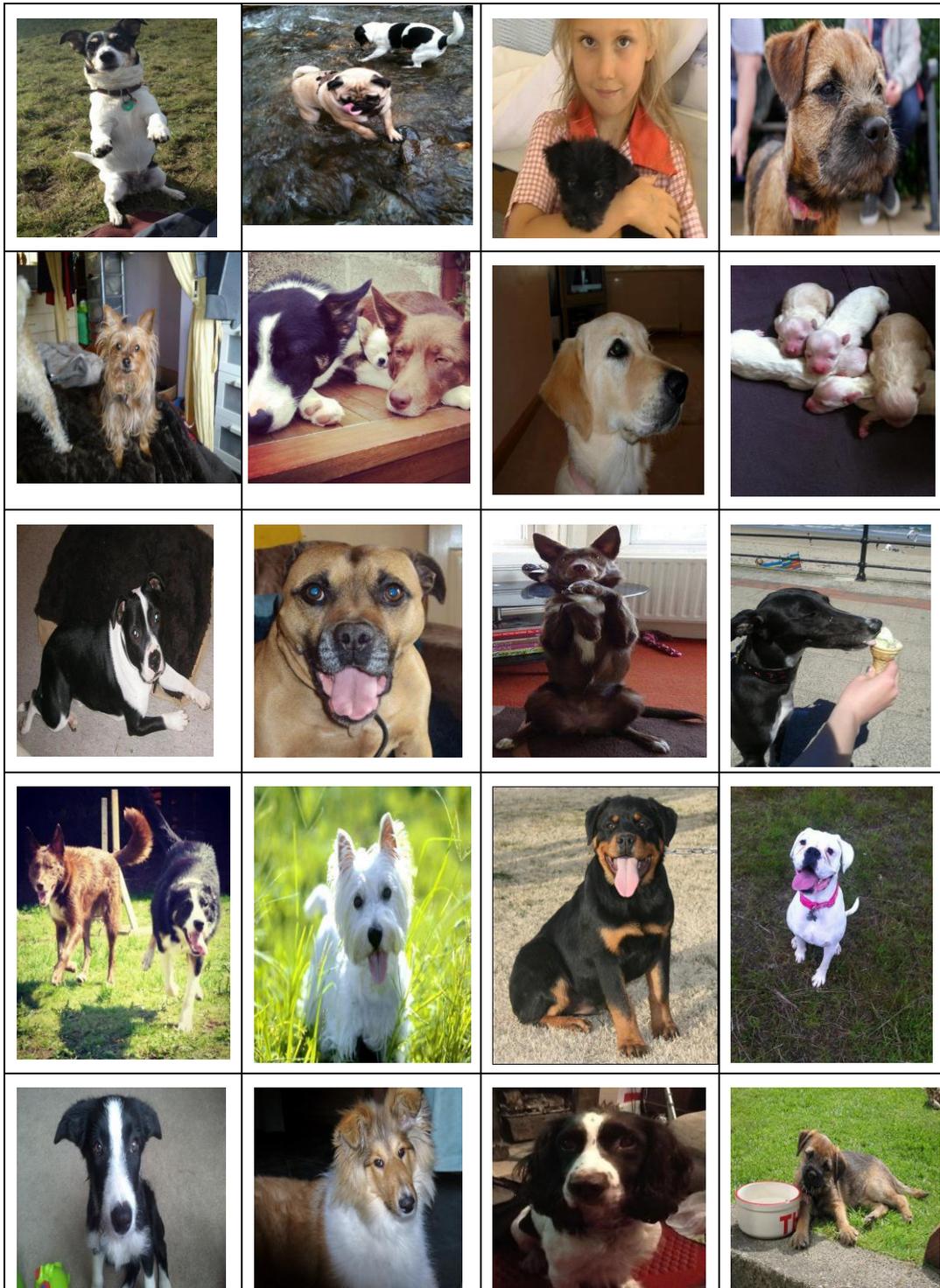


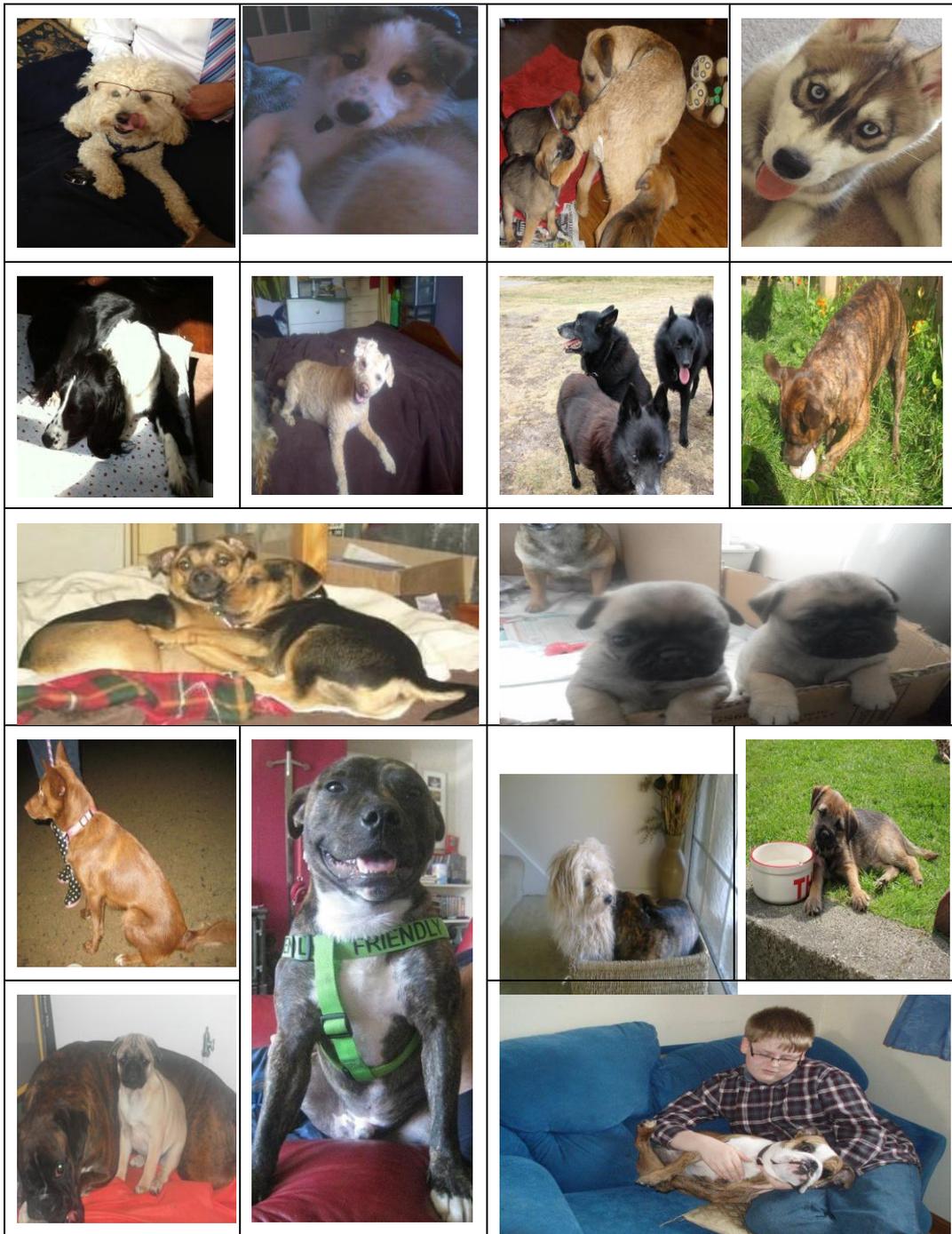
Always be kind to an animal. Be gentle and remember - they can't talk for themselves, they feel pain just like we do. They are part of our family, we are responsible for them and must teach them how to behave and they learn this from training and watching from our behaviours too. Animals are a gift to us, as we can be to them. They can bring us so much love, joy and happiness if treated with kindness - so never ever hurt them.



To be a responsible owner it starts with YOU.

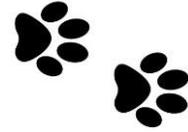
Every dog is different just like every person
is different





All pets come with a big responsibility, whether you have a cat, dog, bird, fish or rabbit. You are responsible for their well-being and it is up to you to care for and look after your pet the same as you would a member of your family. You must **NEVER** harm any living animal or creature whether it is a cat, dog, seagull, or any farm animal. Always **report** anyone you see being cruel towards animals, birds or wildlife. Remember animals cannot speak for themselves or ask someone to stop hurting them. Love and respect your pet and he will love and trust you.

Think smart and be responsible.



Quiz

What must you always do before approaching a dog you don't know?

What could happen if you grab or squeeze a dog?

Why must you keep your face away from a dog's?

Can a dog tell us if they are in pain?

How do you think he would communicate his pain to you for example if you pulled his ears or stepped on his paw?

Who can help you and your dog if there are any problems?

How do you think people shouting and fighting around a dog would make him feel?

What must you remember to do when a dog is eating, sleeping or chewing a bone?

Why is this?

What must you remember to do with any toilet mess when you are out on walks with your dog?

Why is this?

How do you think a dog may react if people are running around screaming?

What do you think is a 'good owner'?

What do you think is a 'bad owner'?

If you see anyone deliberately hurting an animal what must you do?

Why is this?

Why is it important to never ever leave a baby or small child alone with any dog?

Who is responsible for making sure they properly supervise children around dogs at all times?

Why must you never approach a dog tied up outside a shop or with their puppies?

What could happen if you and your friends crowd around a dog?

Why must you keep your dog on a lead during walks?

If a strange dog approaches you what should you do?

How do you think a dog would feel if you hurt him?

How do you think a dog would feel if you treated him with kindness?

What can you do to be a good owner to your dog and to keep you and your dog safe?

Why must you treat all animals with kindness?



Thank you...

WORD SEARCH

Can You Find The 20 Words Below?

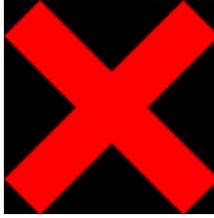
G	W	E	E	R	T	B	R
N	A	A	K	J	Y	J	E
I	L	E	I	P	W	U	N
N	K	H	P	T	H	M	W
I	S	A	R	T	E	P	O
A	H	E	D	L	A	V	E
R	A	R	O	U	L	D	H
T	A	C	O	D	T	A	T
H	Y	E	G	A	H	E	K
E	A	N	I	M	A	L	S
L	D	N	I	K	E	B	A
P	R	Y	P	P	U	P	L
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- | | | | |
|-------|---------------|---------|----------|
| WAIT | ASK THE OWNER | ANIMALS | TREAT |
| BONE | TRAINING | VET | HEALTH |
| PUPPY | LEAD | WALKS | CAT |
| GOOD | BE KIND | HAPPY | FRIENDLY |
| ADULT | JUMP | TREE | HELP |

Did you find them all?



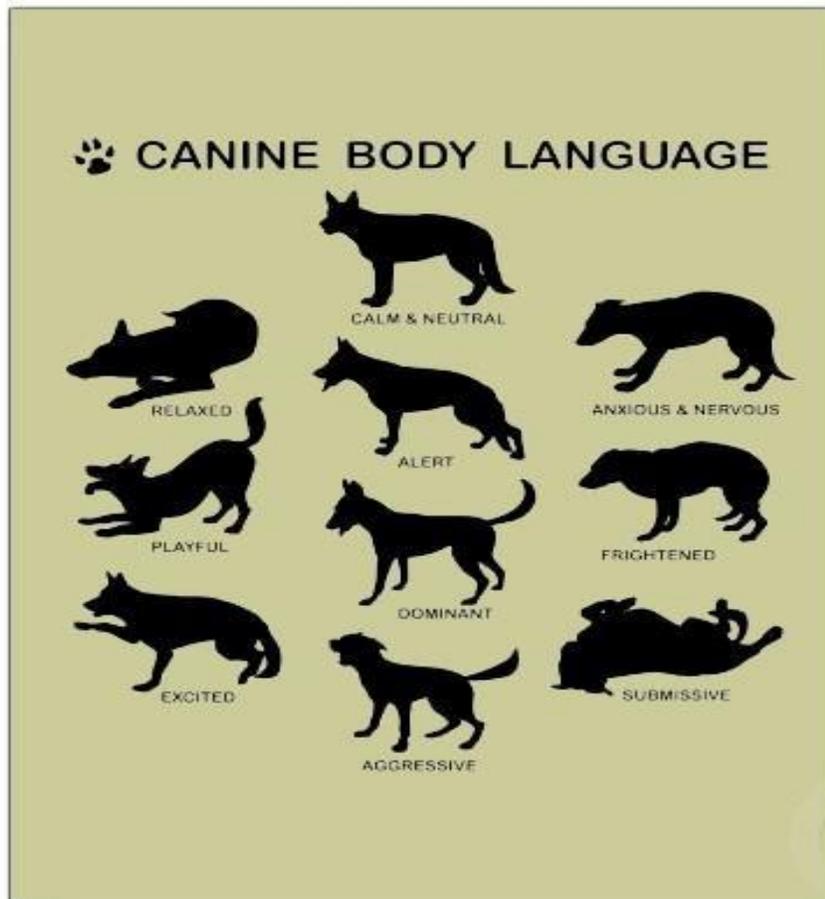
So What Have We Learned...?



- **REMEMBER** - Always **WAIT** - **THINK** - **And ASK** the owner AND the dog's permission first before approaching any dog you don't know
- **DANGER** - Never Hug, squeeze or try to pick him up
- **STAY AWAY** - From a dog who is sleeping, eating or playing with his bone
- **NEVER EVER** - Leave a small child or baby alone with any dog
- **ALWAYS** - Pick up your dog's toilet mess during walks, Use a bag and put it in a bin
- **TO KEEP YOUR DOG SAFE FROM ROADS** - Always remember to keep gates **CLOSED**
- **NEVER** - Run or scream loudly where there are dogs around
- **BAD OWNERS** - People who are cruel to their dogs or neglect them
- **GOOD OWNERS** - People who look after their dogs well and who are responsible and caring
- **REMEMBER** - Dogs have feelings too, just like us
- **DANGER** - Never approach a dog with her puppies or any dog tied up outside a shop
- **BE RESPONSIBLE TOWARDS OTHER ANIMALS** - If your dog growls or snarls at another dog keep him away. And when out on walks you must always keep your dog on the lead
- **REMEMBER** - If a stray dog approaches you stand still like a tree, do not speak or look at the dog, and count slowly in your head until he goes away

- **ALWAYS** - Be kind to an animal. If you see anyone deliberately hurting an animal or causing them pain please tell a responsible adult, **you could save their life**

Discussion: How is a dog feeling? Can you tell?



<http://dogsarefamilytoo.webs.com/>