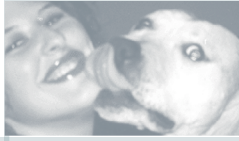
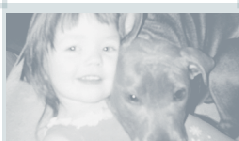


Punish The Deed | Not The Breed



**Pit Bull
Educational
Packet**



What is a Pit Bull?

It's important to understand "pit bull" is not a breed of dog but; rather a term typically used to group 3 breeds of dog, the American Pit Bull Terrier (APBT), American Staffordshire Terrier (AMSTAFF) and the Staffordshire Bull Terrier (STAFFIE). This understanding becomes very important when talking about BSL and bite statistics! For example, the statistics may indicate Labradors have 3 reported bites and pit bulls have 4 reported bites. The reality, labradors have 3 reported bites, where as the 4 reported "pit bull" bites could be any combination of the 3 breeds, or any 1 of 25+ breeds commonly mistaken to be a pit bull.

The Pit Bull is probably the most misunderstood dog in the United States. People see them and cross the street out of fear and try to ban them from their cities. Why? Simply stated, lack of education on the breeds. The public only sees negative stories in the news. Pit Bulls are wonderful dogs in the hands of responsible owners just like any other breed. As with any dog, there will always be irresponsible owners and poorly bred dogs. That does NOT mean that all of these dogs are evil!

A Little Bit of History

For hundreds of years traits such as high prey drive and a high pain threshold were bred into the bloodlines of pit bulls because they were originally bred to fight. However, a quality that was never bred into the bloodlines was human aggression. Human "aggressive" dogs were undesirable as these dogs required extensive handling prior to and during their fights AND most of these dogs were also family pets so no human "aggression" was ever tolerated. Dogs that exhibited human "aggression" were typically killed, meaning that only human friendly lines were perpetuated and desired.

There is an estimated 4.8 million registered American Pit Bull Terriers that have been selectively bred for companionship and

conformation dog shows. This number does not include the unregistered APBT's, which would add significantly to the 4.8 million.

It has been said that a Pit Bull never met a stranger. They love and adore humans. They want so much to be apart of your family and spend time with you watching TV, walking, driving, etc. I have seen severely abused and neglected pit bulls who see you coming and they can't wait to be petted and loved. Even after the abuse, they want nothing more than to be with a family of their own! As with any breed there are exceptions to the normal temperament and behavior.

"...most of these dogs were also family pets so no human "aggression" was ever tolerated."



So Who Would Own a Pit Bull?

- Anthony Robbins
- Molly Price, Actress from Third Watch
- General George Patton
- Fred Astaire
- Stephany Kramer
- President Woodrow Wilson
- Jan Michael Vincent
- Steve Irwin, The Crocodile Hunter
- Alicia Silverstone
- Humphrey Bogart
- John Steinbeck
- Fatty Arbuckle
- Malcolm-Jamal Warner
- Mo Vaughn (NY Mets)
- James Ellroy (Author)
- Amy Jo Johnson (Actress)
- Barbra Eden
- Rosie Perez
- Kelli Williams, (The Practice)
- James Caan
- Shaq O'neil
- Judd Nelson

- Michael J. Fox
- President Theodore Roosevelt
- Walter Scott, Author
- Ken Howard, who's life was saved by his pit bull.
- Usher and his family own 2 beautiful pit bulls.
- Thomas Edison
- Mel Brooks and Anne Bancroft
- Julian Schnabel, Artist
- Stephan Jenkins, Singer
- Madonna
- Jack Dempsey
- Helen Keller
- Bernadette Peters
- Jon Stewart
- Stephan Jenkins
- Tamika Dixon (Athlete)
- Earl Holliman
- David Spade
- Robert Ferguson, Green Bay Packer

"...the American Pit Bull Terrier is a "terrier." All terriers have animal prey drive, but this does not make them dangerous or vicious."



statement was in a letter addressed to me on March 26, 2002. His quote was: "I have spoken with [Dr.] Sandy deLahunta (the foremost dog neurologist in the country) and [DR.] Katherine Houpt (a leading dog behaviorist) about a jaw locking mechanism in pit bulls or any other dog and they both say, as do I, that there is NO SUCH THING AS "JAW LOCKING IN ANY BREED.

We all agree that the power of the bite is proportional to the size of the jaws and the jaw muscles. There is no anatomical structure that could be a locking mechanism in any dog." As a Professor Emeritus from the College of Veterinary Medicine at Michigan State University, I agree completely with their conclusion.

2. Pit Bulls are born to be mean. NOT TRUE! Pit Bulls like all other breeds, are not born inherently mean or bad! They can, like any other breed, become mean through lack of training, abuse, neglect and irresponsible ownership and breeding.

There is no scientific proof that pit bulls or any other breed of dog is dangerous. The ACF's collective experience and research has found the American Pit Bull Terrier is a "terrier." All terriers have animal prey drive, but this does not make them dangerous or vicious.

3. Pit Bulls have a 1600 PSI Jaw Pressure. WRONG AGAIN! There is currently no device available for measuring dog bites for pressure for pit bulls or any other animal. The ACF states: "According to the current scientific research there is no proof that the Pit Bull can bite harder than any other breed. There is no proof that the Pit Bull is genetically vicious and statistics have been greatly manipulated. Environment, training and socialization play a much greater part in the temperament of an individual dog than genetic traits." (ACF2003)

Some Common Myths Explained

1. Pit Bulls have locking jaws NO! The pit bull's jaws are the same as any other breed of dog! Any Veterinarian can verify this is simply a myth. Actually, pit bulls do less damage because they bite and hold, where other dogs bite/release/bite that causes more bleeding and damage.

Prepared by: Al W. Stinson, D.V.M.

Director of Legislative Affairs, Michigan Association for Pure Bred Dogs, and the Michigan Hunting Dog Federation, and a Member of the Board of Directors of the American Dog Owners Association

The following quote was sent to me from Dr. Howard Evans, Professor Emeritus, College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University, Ithaca New York. We were colleagues in the veterinary college for four years. He is the author of the textbook, ANATOMY OF THE DOG, (the world's definitive work on the anatomy of the dog).His

4. Will a pit bull that shows aggression towards a dog, go after people next? NO! Animal aggression and human aggression are 2 completely different things! There are many types of aggression in the canine world and they are all very different.

5. Pit Bulls attack more than any other breed. NO. The statistical data on dog bites and attacks are inaccurate. Many dog bites are never reported. There is nothing in place to track dog bites in the US accurately.

There are 25+ breeds that are commonly wrongly identified as pit bulls, Those of us who have been involved with the breed for years have trouble identifying them 100% of the time, so, we certainly can't expect inexperienced people to be able to properly ID a dog. That said, it leads us to believe that many of the bites that claim to be from pit bulls are in fact, inflicted by other breeds.

Here are a couple of websites with tests, you try to pick the pit bull!

<http://members.aol.com/radogz/find.html>

<http://www.pitbullsontheweb.com/petbull/findpit.html>

Common Questions and Answers

Question: Are pit bulls good with children?

Answer: Properly raised and socialized these dogs are great with children. They are able to stand the rough and tumble play of a toddler. As with other big dogs, pit bulls can accidentally knock kids over during play, etc so they should always be supervised. Dogs of any breed should never be left alone with children.

Question: Are pit bulls inherently dangerous to people?

Answer: No! Pit bulls are no more inherently dangerous to people than other dog breeds. People often assume that pit bulls are human aggressive because they were bred to fight animals. This is simply not true! If that were the case then Irish Wolfhounds, Anatolian Shepherds, Great Pyrenees, etc. should be considered dangerous to humans as well.



“Every 10 years or so a new breed of dog is victimized by irresponsible owners, breeders, bad media coverage, and now it’s the pit bull’s turn.”

There is a common misconception regarding dog aggression! In the canine world there are many types of aggression including dog, displaced, food, fear, etc. Because a dog is aggressive with other dogs does not make them aggressive towards humans! A love and respect for Humans was specifically bred into the pit bull lines, due to the nature of dog fighting when it was considered a sport hundreds of years ago.

Dogs of any breed that show a tendency towards Human Aggression should be immediately seen by a qualified behaviorist for temperament testing and Vet to ensure there isn't a medical problem. Often this is can be a result of fear, which can be greatly reduced by taking the time to properly socialize your puppy to lots of different people, places and things! Socialization does not always prevent a fearful dog, but it's a huge step in that direction. Human Aggression should NOT be tolerated in any breed of dog small or large!

Question: Why do we hear so many negative pit bull stories in the Media and are they true?

Answer: There are a few things that contribute to the negative stories on the news. As often the case, negative stories always seem to get National coverage, where the positive stories only make the local news. The Media is not always very responsible with their stories! I have seen news reports of a dog attack by another breed and, yet the media had a picture of a pit bull on the TV while reporting this story.



Every 10 years or so a new breed of dog is victimized by irresponsible owners, breeders, bad media coverage, and now it's the pit bull's turn. In the 70's it was the German Shepherd, the 80's was the Doberman's turn, the 90's Rottweilers and pit bulls had all the bad press, and now it's the pit bull's time to suffer again. And, unfortunately, in a few years it will be another breed that will be in the spotlight.

Question: Do Pit Bulls make good pets?

Answer: Yes, but Pit Bulls are not for everyone, just like any other breed of dog. Research should be done on any breed prior to making a decision. The best place for responsible pit bull information is Pit Bull Rescue Central www.pbrc.net.

The American Pit Bull Terrier was the #1 family dog in the US during the first part of the 20th century. They are loyal, loving, devoted, funny, and almost human-like in their emotions and expressions!

The American Temperament Testing Society does temperament testing throughout the year at breed clubs and compiles the statistics. Their overall pass rate for breeds is 80%, and in the 2002 statistics, APBTs, AMSTAFFs, and Rottweilers were all in the 82 percentile, meaning 80+% of the dogs tested passed the temperament test. That is a very high percentage, especially when comparing to breeds which are common family dogs, such as, Golden Retrievers and Bichon Frise tested at 77%, Chihuahua at 71%, Greyhound at 81% and Lhasa Apso at 71%. These test results are available at www.atts.org

Pit Bulls bond very fast and very strongly to their humans and need to spend a lot of time with you. If you are not home a lot or plan on keeping the dog in the yard, etc, then a Pit Bull isn't for you! Pit Bulls are a dominant breed and require a strong pack leader who is always in control. Obedience and socialization is mandatory with this breed and should be with any breed.

Additional Information

Please take some time and visit these sites for additional information about pit bulls.

www.forpits sake.org

www.pbrc.net

www.understand-a-bull.com

www.pitbullsontheweb.com

www.workingpitbull.com

www.itsapitty.com/info.html

www.welcome.to/realpitbull

www.outofthepits.org/

www.furryfriendsfoundation.com/Truth03/Truth03.htm

<http://legislation2002.tripod.com/>

www.waf-legislation.org

From Puppies to Pioneers - The Story of Search & Rescue Pits



From Kristine Crawford For PitSake

I got Cheyenne when she was 4 months old. A friend of mine worked at the local animal shelter and felt sorry for this emaciated, hairless puppy that had just been brought in. Due to the fact that she was a pit bull, she was going to be put down the next day. My friend brought her home. She couldn't keep her because she already had 5 dogs so she gave her to me.

Even after all the puppy had been through, Cheyenne was a little bundle of joy. I worked in retail at the time so I was able to bring her to work with me. Everyone fell in love with her. We went through obedience, did some agility, and even started doing some schutzhund. But when it came time to do the bite work, she just didn't want to do it.

Then I decided that I didn't want to excel at something where people would see my pit bull biting someone. Cheyenne did really well in the tracking part of her schutzhund training so I decided to train her to be a search dog. Soon after that, Cheyenne went through a false pregnancy. She would take all my stuffed animals and put them in her bed and lay on them. She never went anywhere without her "puppies". She carried them all around the house. Then it came time for her false pregnancy to end . . . and she had no real puppies. She went into a

severe depression. She didn't want to get up. Not even to eat.

A neighbor who lived on the ranch down the street told me that they had some friends who were selling pit bull puppies and that I should buy one for Cheyenne. We decided to take Cheyenne over to their house to see how she got along with the puppies. She loved them! However, they were out of my price range. I let her play with them for a little while and then called her so we could leave. I turned around to see where she was and there she was, with a puppy by the neck, getting into the car! I told her no she couldn't have the puppy and I took it back and "buried" it underneath its 7 brothers and sisters.

Cheyenne ran over to the pile of puppies and batted them all aside until she found that same puppy. She found her and off she went to the car with "her" puppy. I was in tears, the breeder was in tears. The breeder was so moved by what he saw that he let us have the puppy. Cheyenne was delighted with her new puppy, Dakota. Dakota started coming to work with us also and she absolutely adored people. Cheyenne and Dakota became inseparable. I decided to train Dakota to be a search dog as well.

Dakota liked to run so I trained her to be an Air Scent Dog while Cheyenne is a little more methodical, so I trained her to be a Trailing Dog. After months of training, we



were ready to join an organization. We went to our first meeting. The building didn't allow dogs, so Cheyenne and Dakota had to stay in the car. Then came my turn to introduce us. "My name is Kris and I have an American Staffordshire Terrier and an American Pit Bull Terrier."

Everyone gasped. One woman yelled, "We don't allow pit bulls!" Everyone in the room started talking. I told them that I was honestly surprised to get this type of reaction from an organization that is run by "dog people" who should know that a dog's behavior is based on how it is raised, not by what type of breed it is.

The board called the session to order and they would vote on whether we should be allowed to join. We got in by one vote. The following week we went to our first workout, nobody would hide for us. "The pit bull might attack me when she finds me!" Very few people would even talk to me. After a couple weeks of this, I realized I would have to do it on my own. I also realized that we would have to be 10 times better than everyone else to be considered an equal.

I found some people who would work with us. We trained every day. Cheyenne and Dakota loved the work. They would go get me their vests every chance they could. In the meantime, we kept showing up to the workouts. After about 10 months, I found someone at one of the workouts to hide for us. Everyone wanted to watch. I deployed Dakota. They stood there silently as they watched Dakota search for the scent,



locate the subject, come back and tell me she had found the subject, and then take me to the subject." "Dang, she's good!" I heard someone say.

One of the evaluators even let Cheyenne and Dakota play with her dog! From that point on we were accepted.

That year was a slow season for search call outs. I tried to think of what else I could do with Cheyenne and Dakota in the meantime. Then I heard about Animal-Assisted Therapy. Cheyenne and Dakota absolutely loved people so this would be perfect for them. I called the informational number on the brochure. The woman who answered told me all about their organization. She was very pleasant.

Then she asked what kind of dogs I had. I told her Pit Bulls. She said, "I'm sorry, but our discussion is over." She hung up. Now I was even more determined to get in! I waited a couple weeks and called again. Once again she started out telling me all about the

CANINE SEARCHER TAKES A REST

Dakota, a 6-year-old female pit bull with the Alameda County search-and-rescue team, rests Sunday at the command post at Monterey Highway and Ford Road in South San Jose at the feet of her handler, Kris Crawford, after two days of searching for kidnap victim Jennette Tamayo, 9.



JIM GENSHEIMER/SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS

Nine-year-old kidnap victim found alive in East Palo Alto

The San Jose girl's abductor and a possible accomplice were on tape

WIRE REPORTS

SAN JOSE — A 9-year-old girl brazenly kidnapped from her home was found alive Sunday night at a market about 15 miles away, police said.

Jennette Tamayo had been

dropped off in the East Palo Alto area and was found at a market there late Sunday night, said a San Jose police spokeswoman. No details of her condition were available.

Jennette was taken from her home Friday afternoon by a man who police say was a stranger to the family.

See KIDNAP, Page 6

organization. Then she asked what kind of dogs I had. "Terriers that do search and rescue." She was delighted. She invited me to the handler orientation and the classes that teach you how to deal with different types of patients. Dogs were not allowed at these classes so she still hadn't seen my girls.

A couple of months later she said to go ahead and bring my dogs to the rehab center at 9:00am to be evaluated with the patients. We arrived early and at 9:00, we proudly walked in the front door of the rehab center. She was waiting for us in the lobby. She looked at us and screamed, "You're that pit bull lady! Get those dogs out of here!" Just then a child that was sitting in the lobby ran up to Cheyenne and started petting her.

Then a man in a wheelchair came by and asked if he could pet the dogs. The therapist who just arrived, didn't hear that the Evaluator had just kicked us out of the building. She said, "Oh, you guys must be the new therapy dogs . . . let's get started." The Evaluator looked at me and sternly said, "You've got one floor."

Everyone was so happy to see my girls. We were having so much fun we ended up doing all three floors! As we walked out the door, the Evaluator looked at me and said, "You know, I learned something today. I guess pit bulls aren't all bad. Here is a list of hospitals, rehab centers and convalescent homes that could sure use your help. Good job."

A lot of people ask me why I do Animal-Assisted Therapy and Search and Rescue with my dogs. I tell them that I used to do all sorts of things with my dogs; i.e. obedience, agility, etc. When they did a good job, they got a blue ribbon. Now when my dogs do a good job, they save someone's life.

Source: Pit Bull Press Web Site

For the detailed stories of these dogs visit PBRC's Positive Pit Bull Press site <http://www.pitbullsontheweb.com/pet-bull/pospress.html>

The Number 1 United States Customs Dog is an American Pit Bull Terrier named Popsicle. How did he get that name? He was found during a drug bust in a freezer where he had been left to die after being used as a bait dog for dog fighters.

One of the top rated Search and Rescue dogs is Dakota, an American Pit Bull Terrier. Dakota is owned by Kris Crawford, who has 2 other pit bulls that are certified SAR dogs! Dakota is so good at what she does, NASA hand picked Kris and Dakota to assist in the recovery of the Astronauts after last winter's tragic crash. They are also certified Hospital Therapy dogs. These dogs bring happy reunions and sometimes closure to many families. If you were to tell these families how evil and bad these dogs are I'm sure they would look at you like you were crazy! (Animal Planet recently aired a "Pet Story" edition on Kris Crawford).

RCA, a white APBT is certified as a hearing dog in Alaska.

Buddy the APBT (referred to by owners as their 56lb Chihuahua) saved 2 retired sisters from a house fire.

Private First Class Duke is a U.S. Marine stationed in Japan

Norton, was rescued from a fight ring. One day he saved his human mom's life after she had gone into anaphylactic shock from a spider bite by awakening his dad and taking him to his unconscious wife. He went to the master bedroom and kept pushing her husband until he awoke and followed Norton to his wife.

For the detailed stories of these dogs visit PBRC's Positive Pit Bull Press site <http://www.pitbullsontheweb.com/pet-bull/pospress.html>

Petunia the Pit Bull visits schools and assists in teaching kids about responsible pet ownership.

Spike is a service dog for a quadriplegic who couldn't function without Spike's help!

Taylor is a 4yr old APBT, San Diego Narcotics Officer. He is also a rescued pit bull!

Dixie is a 50 pound APBT who never hesitated in the face of danger. She protected her family's children by pushing them out of the way and putting herself between them and a deadly Cottonmouth about to strike. She took two bites to the face. Those bites would have killed the kids.

Blueberry, a young APBT, saved her owner's life by pouncing on two armed attackers as they were shooting.

Gabby brought much needed help to a neighbor who had fallen off a 12 ft. ladder. Once she was able to wake him up by licking his face and barking, she went for help.

Weela, who was outside watching one of the kids in her family, suddenly body-slammed 11 yr. old Gary and sent him flying. Lori (mom) saw the whole thing and was surprised since Weela had always played so well with the kids. Surprised that was, until she saw the big rattlesnake sink it's fangs into Weela's face! Then she understood Weela had been saving Gary's life!

A few years later, Weela saved the lives of 30 people, 29 Dogs, 13 horses and 1 cat. Heavy rains caused a dam to break on the Tijuana River. Weela would pull 30 to 50 lbs. of food across the river to feed stranded animals when it was needed during their

month of being stranded on the island. She always took the lead on the rescue missions detecting quicksand, steep drop offs and mud bogs saving the rescue teams from injury. On a trip back from delivering food to the animals, Weela prevented a group of 30 people from crossing the river at a dangerously fast flowing section. She ran back and forth by the shoreline barking and refusing to let them pass. Then she led them to a shallow spot, and helped them to safety. On another rescue mission, Weela led the team to 13 horses stranded on a island of manure, all 13 horses were saved thanks to her efforts. Weela is a pit bull that was dumped by the original owners in an alley at 4 wks of age. Her family found her and her siblings and rescued them. Once the puppies were healthy they found homes for them and decided to keep Weela as they felt she was special! In 1993 Weela was named Ken-L Ration's Dog Hero of the Year!

What is Breed Specific Legislation (BSL)?

It's any ordinance or law that bans or places restrictions on dog ownership based on a dog's breed instead of a dog's actions.

Why is BSL wrong?

There are many reasons why BSL is wrong and should not be allowed. BSL laws get passed when City and State officials do not take the time to educate themselves on the issues. With a little education, you will find that BSL is definitely not the answer nor will it make a community safer.

1. BSL is ineffective; in 1988 Dade County Florida passed a ban on pit bulls. In 2002 it was estimated that 50,000 pit bulls reside in Dade County.

2. It doesn't target the problems, only increases illegal activity in the area. The criminals and irresponsible owners will not be affected because they are not law-abiding citizens. The responsible owners will either be forced into becoming criminals to keep their dogs, or they will be forced to kill their dogs. I think that history proves when things are made illegal, bigger problems arise. Alcohol was outlawed in the early 1900s, causing a tremendous increase in illegal activity until the ban was repealed.

3. BSL is costly to the city and the taxpayers:

- Enforcing the law
- Impounding and kenneling the dogs
- Veterinary care of the animals
- Legal Fees

4. BSL is unconstitutional and is being challenged in several court cases throughout the US based on the 4th, 5th, 8th and 14th amendments.

(NOTE: For additional details and costs, please see the BSL Cost section of the Statistical and Scientific data section.)

- August 2002, the Alabama Supreme Court upheld a decision that pit bulls were no more inherently dangerous than any other breed in *WAF/Sheila Tack V Huntsville Alabama*. This case was very

costly to the city of Huntsville.

- Spring of 2003, a Westbury NY court ruled that the city's BSL was unconstitutional and repealed the law.

5. Breed Identification or the inability to properly identify a breed.

- The only way to identify a dog's breed is by their appearance. There is no way genetically to test for a dog's breed. (For additional details, please see the Breed Identification of the Statistical and Scientific data section.)
- There are 25+ breeds of dogs that have the same appearance as a pit bull and are commonly mistaken for a pit bull. It is almost impossible for an average person to accurately identify a pit bull. (See the Find the Pit Bull section)
- Pit bull is in fact not a breed of dog, but a term used to typically group three breeds; the American Staffordshire Terrier, American Pit Bull Terrier and the Staffordshire Bull Terrier.

Aren't there some breeds that are more dangerous than others?

1. Many communities and cities believe that the solution to prevent severe and fatal dog attacks is to label, restrict or ban certain breeds of dogs as potentially dangerous. If the breed of dog was the primary or sole determining factor in a fatal dog attack, it would necessarily stand to reason that since there are literally millions of Rottweiler, Pit Bulls and German Shepherd Dogs in the United States, there would have to be countless more than an approximate 20 human fatalities per year.

Since only an infinitesimal number of any breed is implicated in a human fatality, it is not only unreasonable to characterize this as a specific breed behavior by which judge an entire population of dogs, it also does little to prevent fatal or severe dog attacks as the real causes and events that contribute to a fatal attack are masked by the issue of breed and not seriously addressed

Pit Bulls in particular have been in a firestorm of bad publicity, and throughout the country, Pit Bulls often bear the brunt of breed specific legislation. One severe or fatal attack can result in either restrictions or outright banning of this breed (and other breeds) in a community. While any severe or fatal attack on a person is tragic, there is often a tragic loss of perspective as to degree of dangerousness associated with this breed in reaction to a fatality. Virtually any breed of dog can be implicated in a human fatality. (Karen Delise) (For additional details and costs, please see the BSL Cost section of the Statistical and Scientific data section.)

2. Every 10 years or so, a new breed of dog is victimized by irresponsible owners, breeders, bad media coverage, and now it's the pit bull's turn. In the 70's it was the German Shepherd, the 80's was the Doberman's turn, the 90's Rottweilers and pit bulls had all the bad press, and now it's the pit bull's time to suffer again. And, unfortunately, in a few years it will be another breed that will be in the spotlight.

3. When looking at dog bite reports and statistics they are not accurate, you must remember pit bull is not a breed, it's a term used to group at a minimum of three different breeds of dog. There is also the fact that there are 25+ breeds that look like a "pit bull" and are commonly identified incorrectly. Another consideration, people involved in a crime, can not give accurate description due to the high stress level at the time of the incident. There was once a segment on a news show where in a Law School class during a lecture, the instructor had someone run in to the class, steal something at the front of the class and run back out. They then took statements from every student. The descriptions varied drastically, from Asian, Black, Caucasian, etc. The heights, weight all different. The same would be true of dog attacks.

Why do dogs bite?

There are different reasons a dog may bite. A bite is the only way for a dog to protect itself.

1. Canine behavior is completely different than that of humans, and miscommunication between dogs and humans causes many problems. This is the most common reason for children getting bitten.

a. Walking straight towards a dog is considered rude or threatening to a canine.

b. Making eye contact, staring is a challenge and a threat to a dog.

c. Reaching over a dog's head to pet them, is a show of dominance. This can be a threat to many dogs.

2. Irresponsible owners are a large factor in dog bites.

Owners need to be held

accountable when they are irresponsible!

a. Socializing dogs is critical to their development and reducing problems, including biting. Fearful and shy dogs can bite suddenly due to a loud noise.

b. Chained dogs or dogs left alone to live in the back yard become very territorial, protective, fearful and out of control. These dogs are then blamed when they bite a child playing in the backyard. If we don't teach dogs how to play or meet new people, we can't hold them accountable for their actions.

c. Obedience training, all dogs need to be trained in basic obedience.

d. Children should NEVER be left unattended with dog's, no matter what kind of dog.

3. Mental or physical abuse, this is another reason children shouldn't be left alone with dogs. Children can be relentless in tormenting dogs; poking at them through the fence, throwing things at them, etc.

"...there are 25+ breeds that look like a "pit bull" and are commonly identified incorrectly."



Conclusion of the BSL Topic:

There is no scientific proof that genetics cause a breed of dog to be aggressive, vicious or dangerous. Irresponsible owners are to

blame for the behavior of dogs that are aggressive, vicious or dangerous. Breed specific legislation is an injustice, as is genocide of a specific breed of dog.

It's been well established that dogs are personal property *Brown v. Muhlenberg Township*, 269 F. 3d 205, 209-10(3d Cir.2001), *Fuller v. Vines*, 36 F. 3d 65, 68 (9th Cir.1994), *Leshner v. Reed*, 12 F. 3d 148, 150-51 (8th Cir. 1994) and in a recent case *Altamn v. High Point* No. 02-1178 4d (4th Cir. 2003). The Federal 4th Circuit Court ruled "we conclude that the dogs in this case do qualify as property protected by the Fourth Amendment". Therefore they should be protected property under the 4th,5th,8th and 14th Amendments of the U.S. Constitution. S.Zendorf (Attorney at Law) (For additional details and costs, please see the BSL Cost section of the Statistical and Scientific data section.)

Mary Beach - Virginia "Zero" and "Bluff"



"My name is Mary Beach and I am a huge animal lover, but have a special place in my heart for the APBT. Growing up we had friends of the family that had them and they were just the best dogs. Those dogs could do anything from fetch to play dead. APBTs are such comical dogs, they will do anything to make their owners happy. I got my first APBT when I was 17 and have been hooked ever since. She was a beautiful brindle dog that was the best mannered thing. I used to take her regularly to VA Beach and never had a

single problem with her. Not even during major events like the 4th of July. I have lived in Gloucester, VA now for 5 years and plan to be here till the day I die. The community is very pro pit bull. We have at least one IWPA weight pull a year. My female APBT has even been to my daughter's preschool for show and tell. The kids adored her and none of the parents were worried at all about her. She was only about 7 months old but was great, even with 15 kids running around and falling on her. APBTs are the most loyal breed I have found. I have had other breeds and we even have a mutt now, but none come close to my APBT. They would give anything to please their owners, which sadly gets them into a lot of trouble because it's not always the best people that are training them. We need better owners and NOT to ban the breed. I also baby-sit on a regular basis and none of the parents mind my dogs. The kids love them to death and the dogs are very patient with the kids. They even let the kids dress them up like dolls! I cannot imagine life without an APBT in it. If BSL ever gets passed in my state, I would move before giving up my dogs. They are a huge part of our family and we all love them with all our hearts!"

Mary Beach

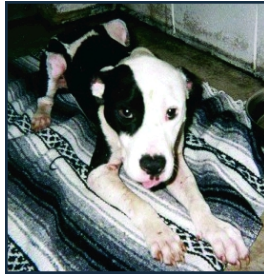
Amy Scharmen - Michigan "Nitro"



"This is Nitro, taking part in a 4th of July parade. We greeted everyone along the parade route!"

Amy Scharmen

AJ and Danielle Morgan - Florida
"TJ the Protector"



"Here is what TJ looked like when we "sprung" him from the shelter as he was scheduled to be PTS that next day."



The Story of TJ...

"Memorial Day 2003, we were sitting out on the porch with my Friend TJ from Virginia.. and she looked up and asked "who's dog is that?" and there crawled TJ, on three legs up the driveway. We ushered our dogs in the house and grabbed a blanket and some water for this poor bloody dog. We fed him, contacted the ER clinic, and then got him ready to take him up to Kevin Bracket (who is a friend of my husband's). They tended to him. No one is quite sure where he came from or how he came to be in the condition that he was in. But from checking out his injuries, it seems that he may have been tossed into a pig ring and couldn't hunt, so whoever had him just tossed him out the door. And then he came to us.

He did end up with animal control as he was a stray, so my husband, myself and some

wonderful rescue people worked hard to get him out. They deemed him aggressive at the shelter because he growled at a couple other dog, and scheduled his euthanasia date for 3 days later. We worked diligently to get him out, and eventually he became a Save The Pets rescue, and we began the journey of being his foster parents. TJ is a wonderful dog, with no aggression issues. He sleeps in the house with us, is crated from the other dogs when we are not home. His first love is our other pit bull, Roxie, and his second is obviously Us. He is up for adoption thru Save The Pets, and we will make sure that he goes to a person who is worthy of his devotion."

"Friday, August 29, he saved my husband's life by alerting him to a rattlesnake.

My husband, AJ Morgan was inside the house, and TJ was barking outside. So AJ figured it was time to take the kids down the driveway to get the mail. He stepped out on the walk (we live on 8 acres and our driveway is made of dirt) and TJ kept barking at him, spinning in circles and sitting on my husband's feet, would NOT let AJ pass. AJ tried to shoo TJ out of the way, but he was having none of that, every turn my husband took, TJ just sat in front of him. Finally, AJ reached down to pat TJ and ask him what was wrong and he looked down the driveway. About 5 feet from him was 4 ft diamond back rattlesnake coiled up in the driveway. TJ was bouncing up and down to make sure that AJ didn't go anywhere near that snake...

AJ escorted the snake, with the help of several long sticks off the property and TJ got quite a feast of steak and pizza that night!

Just goes to show that Pit bulls are not the man-eating, child attacking machines that people make them out to be. I know my husband and I are pretty much sure that TJ saved him from either a serious injury, or death, because my husband doesn't wear shoes out on the driveway."

Danielle Morgan

Jaime Finley - Ohio "Novim and Friends"



"Here is a picture of three of my dogs- one is a Staffordshire Bull Terrier, one is an American Pit Bull Terrier mix and the other is an American Staffordshire Terrier. As you can see, they are obviously not dog aggressive since they are all in the same pic and one is trying to give the other one a kiss. They are also very loving towards people. The Am Staff has passed the ATTS Temperament test and the AKC Canine Good Citizen (CGC) test. The Pit Bull mix has also passed the ATTS Test and CGC and also the Therapy Dog International (TDI) test.

The Staffie Bull has been a show dog and just recently retired from the show ring and is working toward some titles. They are very even tempered dogs and when people meet them, the fears they might have about "pit bulls" go away because they see how great these dogs really are. All three go to the dog park where there are many people and dogs off leash playing in a fenced in designated area. They also go to work with me at a doggy day care and have never been aggressive with any of the dogs or people there. Well socialized "pit bulls" are good family companions."

Jaime Finley

Natalie Kemeny - Ontario "Rocco"



"Hello my name is Natalie Kemeny, and I have a one year old deaf Pit Bull. He is an amazing dog, yes a Pit Bull who is amazing!

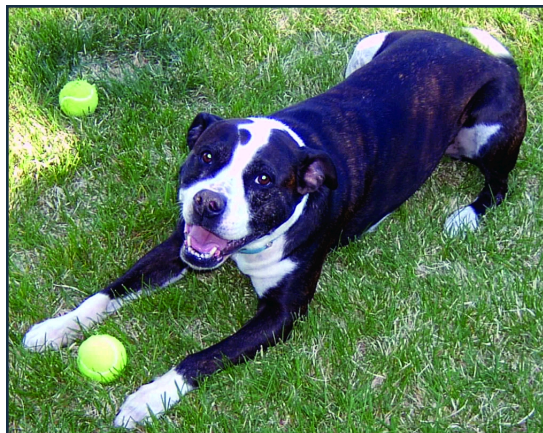
My dog has been through obedience school and has constant training. Rocco is so affectionate, he loves to cuddle and play with my American Bull Dog, they are great together. My neighbors love him, as soon as I brought him home I introduced him to everyone in the area. He plays with my mom's cat, he is just so lovable. My Pit Bull is much friendlier than my American Bull Dog.

I love all breeds of dogs, but pits are definitely my favorite. I was never interested in the breed or really knew anything about them, until I saved Rocco at five weeks. I was trying to find him a home but then he grew on me and I found out he was deaf and could not give him up. Thank God I kept him, he is the joy of my life.

I have several neighbors with Pit Bulls and they are all the same temperament as mine, loving and caring."

Natalie Kemeny

Sharon Burkhardt - Michigan
"Miki"



"My pit is on a flyball team. She is around kids and other dogs all the time. She has her own cat and is the neighborhood favorite with the kids.

We have SO many people come up to us at flyball tournaments in disbelief that a pit bull could 'actually do that!'

Sharon

Valerie - Washington
"Nanna"



"When Nanna was about 7 weeks old, she was dumped off in the cold and left to fend for herself. My step-dad's sister found her in her garage whining and hungry, so she put the puppy in her sweater and carried her like that most of the day. His sister called us to come look at the pup. Next thing we knew, we were taking the puppy home, and she has been with us ever since.

Nanna's personality is so hilarious. She LOVES people. All she wants to do is lick people. She adores kids. Nanna has changed everyone's life around here. My mom wasn't sure because she heard all the 'bad stuff' about them, but Nanna changed her life and outlook on Pit Bulls. Nanna is almost a year old now. Nanna also loves to play in water. Everyone that meets Nanna thinks that she's just a sweetie, because when she wags her tail, her whole body wags."

Valerie

Deb and Steve - Illinois "Loo"



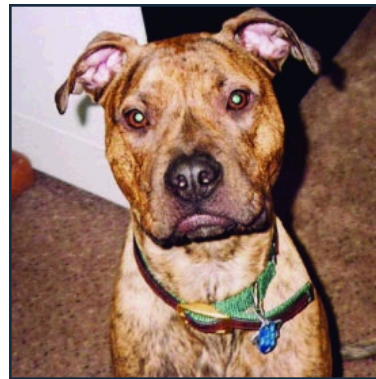
"It's been about a year and a half, and I don't know where to start, other than saying Thank you! Thank you for rescuing this dog, and allowing us the terrific opportunity to enrich our lives with such a wonderful companion. Loo immediately settled in with our family, and has been a perfect example of the classic pit bull, since we've had her. I can't say enough good things about her. In fact, she has changed the minds of most of my family members about bully type dogs. In fact, when we travel to our families' homes during the holidays, the first question they ask is if we're bringing Loo. I think they'd rather see her, than us!

Again, our family can't thank you enough. I sing your praises as often as I can because I know the hard work that you and the foster families do is extremely valuable. Loo is one example of proof!

Here is a picture of Loo with our new edition of our family, Emily. Funny enough, we no longer need a mechanical baby monitor in the house. When Emily cries, Loo comes to get us! Thank you, again!"

Deb and Steve | Updated 10/25/2003
Courtesy of furryfriendsfoundation.com

Jennifer and John R. - Ohio "Carter"



"Dear Furry Friends, when I saw Carter's picture on your website, I knew he was the puppy for me.

Even though we were in Ohio, you were willing to let us adopt him. I can't thank you enough! I can't imagine life without our little cuddly pit puppy.

He has really blossomed here. He even graduated at the top of his obedience class. He loves everyone and everything, and has really changed a lot of people's attitudes about pit bulls. Thanks again!"

Jennifer & John R. | Updated 11/7/2002
Courtesy of furryfriendsfoundation.com

Kelly Keane - Illinois
"Mack"



Mack was found tied up in an abandoned railroad car about two hours south of Chicago. Despite scarring indicative of being fought, he has never shown any dog or people aggression. He was adopted by a wonderful FFF volunteer a few years ago.

"I first met Mack, an American Pit Bull Terrier, while volunteering with Furry Friends. The second I first saw him slowly saunter out of his cage, swinging his big head side to side, I fell head over heels in love. At the time, I was living in a building with a no-pets policy, but as soon as I realized that Mack and I were meant to be together (or rather Catherine helped me realize that we were meant to be together), I decided it was time for us both to find a new home.

It's obvious by looking at him that he had a rough life before he was rescued. While his body may be covered with scars, he has the trusting, loving heart of a dog who has only known kindness. He loves everyone he meets, and anyone willing to look past his breed loves him as well. He is the best therapist I could ask for. If I'm having a bad day, I can always count on him to curl up in my lap (his favorite spot!) and shower me with kisses (his favorite activity) and my mood instantly lifts.

Mack has been with me over a year now, and I can't begin to express how much this amazing boy has enriched my life, as well as the lives of my family and neighbors. He touches everyone he meets, and has succeeded in changing many people's minds about his breed. People are always commenting that he is one of the nicest, most well behaved dogs they've ever seen. He loves other dogs, and even watches over his 11 year old brother, Clancy (my family's Shepherd/Collie mix) when he's not feeling well. He's always very generous with kisses -even with strangers, children, and yes, even the vet! I couldn't ask for a more charming, wonderful dog. Thank you so much for bringing us together!"

Kelly Keane | Updated 11/19/2002
Courtesy of furryfriendsfoundation.com

The Setter Family - Michigan
"Dakota Blue", "Destiny" and "Taboo"



"My family's girls: Dakota Blue, I'm a feisty little 1 year old puppy. I was spayed at 6 months and boy was it hard for mom to keep me quiet! I graduated from 3 Obedience classes and earned my CGC title before I was a year old. I love to play with other dogs, and swim. All my neighbors adore me, they come in my yard and play

with me. The neighborhood grandma is always asking mom to bring me over to visit and the people behind me are always feeding me treats through the fence (shhh, mom doesn't know). Destiny, white with brown spots. I'm 4 yrs old, spayed, and still act like a puppy! I'm non-stop energy and love absolutely everyone and everything. My best friend is my sister, Midnight, a 3 yr. old cat. Taboo, fawn colored. I'm a 3 yr. old spayed female. I act like a senior dog because when I was a year old, we found that my knee socket wasn't deep enough for my knee. I had to have orthopedic surgery, and have developed arthritis, but I still love to play with sticks and swim. I just poop out faster than the other two"

Marcy Setter and Family

Nancy - Michigan

"Blizzard", "Lumi Spot" and "Lugh"



Above:
"Blizzard", deaf
Dogo Argentino -
CGC, TT, therapy dog

Left:
"Lumi Spot", deaf
American Bulldog -
CGC, therapy dog,
local TV star



Above: "Lugh", deaf Pit Bull - CGC

"I don't own pit bulls. But I own two dogs that are often mistaken for pit bulls - a Dogo Argentino and an American Bulldog. In fact, every time I have them out in public I hear "look at that pit bull!" over and over and over. The proposed legislation will affect me every bit as much as it will affect pit owners - who's going to decide what dog is a pit bull and what dog isn't? Both of my dogs are rescues (both are deaf) and though "I" know what breeds they are, I have no paperwork to prove it.

Both of my dogs have their CGC certificates. My Dogo has passed the American Temperament Testing Society temperament test (my AB was just a couple of months too young to take the test this summer, we'll do it next year.) Both dogs visit local nursing homes doing pet therapy visits.

I've attached two pics of my Dogo at a Halloween party last year, and one pic of my AB boy that I had taken recently.

Also, earlier this year I fostered the most adorable deaf pit bull puppy. He was SO smart and learned so easily - he earned his CGC certificate a week before he turned 5 months old. I've attached a pic of Lugh with the little boy he owns now."

Nancy

Ideas to Help Reduce Dog Bites

1. The dog most likely to bite, an intact male, the second an intact female.
 - a. Public Spay and Neuter campaign, the majority of dog bites are by unaltered dogs.
 - b. Low cost or no cost spay and neuter programs for lower income people. There are some cities that organize a free spay day once a year.
2. School programs to educate kids about dogs. The local shelters or Humane Society could visit the schools once a year for a dog education program. Hold one at the local library.
 - a. Never stare at a dog, this is considered a challenge, threat, and rude in canine language.
 - b. Never approach an unknown dog, without asking permission from the owner.
 - c. Always allow the dog to approach you first.
 - d. Always approach a new dog from the side, and pet under the chin.
 - i. Placing your hand over their head is a move of Dominance in canine language.
 - e. Give kids the statistics on Animals who never find homes, promote responsible ownership, etc.
3. Dog Chaining laws, limit the time a dog can be chained.
4. Enforce Leash Laws!
5. Promote and educate people on responsible pet ownership
 - a. Training, why it's important
 - b. Socialization, why it's important!
 - c. NEVER EVER leave your child alone with a dog.
 - d. Proper Pet care
 - e. Why you shouldn't chain your dog
 - f. Why you shouldn't leave your dog outside all the time alone
6. NEVER run from a dog!! That is the worst thing you can do!
7. NEVER tease or taunt dogs, it's not nice and can provoke a dog bite.

Useful Links for Bite Prevention

The Safe Kids/Safe Dogs Project

<http://www.SafeKidsSafeDogs.com/>

Why Dogs Bite: A Guideline For Children

<http://www.ddfl.org/behavior/dogbites.htm>

Children and Dogs: Important Information for Parents

<http://www.ddfl.org/behavior/child-dog.pdf>

Why Dogs Bite

<http://www.petfinder.com/journalindex.cgi?path=public/animalbehavior/dogs/1.2.7.txt>

American Canine Foundation

The ACF formerly Washington Animal Foundation is a non-profit organization that advocates responsible dog ownership. ACF assists with legislation and education. In 2001 ACF/WAF assisted the state of Louisiana in revising their dangerous dog law in place of breed specific legislation. ACF/WAF assisted seven cities in passing "dangerous dog laws" including Algona, Walla Walla and Tukwila Washington. ACF/WAF has worked with State Senators and Representatives in California, Florida, Washington, Washington DC, New Hampshire, Oregon, Maryland, New Jersey and Europe in stopping breed specific legislation and drafting dangerous dog laws. In 2002, we drafted a dangerous dog law for the U.S. Government for use on military installations in place of breed specific legislation at Ft. Lewis Wa... ACF/WAF won a decision by the Alabama Supreme Court in August 2002 affirming a trial court decision proving American Pit Bull Terriers are not genetically dangerous. ACF/WAF endorsed SB6635 in Washington, which prohibits declaring a dog dangerous by using its breed. ACF drafted several state level and local laws dog laws in 2003. ACF teaches responsible dog ownership and dog bite prevention for the Department of Education in state of Washington.

Origins of Dog Breeds

"The first dog breeds originated as the result of selection for certain uses (Zimen1992). People first used the instinct of fighting and protection in dogs. Then came herding dogs that protected the herds against attacks from wolves and coyotes (Finger1988), the first hunting dogs, that were used among other things for the hunt of valiant game, the first farm dogs for protection of human settlements and later war dogs, that were taken into war as living weapons (Zimen1992) In the beginning, there were no breed standards as we know

them today. Selection resulted on half natural basis. Only those dogs were used for reproduction that were suited the best for a certain purpose. Because only large, powerful, and courageous dogs showed the best skills in the aforementioned utilization there were no significant differences in reference to their exterior or their character."

"In the course of time nothing substantial changed in the main utilization of dogs. Specialized direction in breeds was established in the area of hunting dogs as well as in special leisure activities that were established in England toward the end of the 16th century. Greyhound races and dogs fighting bulls lead to the breeding of dogs that were especially suited for this "sport". Through the use of the fighting dog those qualities were used that were also evident in the original usage of the dogs for hunting and guarding. Originally only reserved for royalty, especially the bullfighting soon became a national pastime. Later dogs fought against dogs (because buying bulls was too expensive) and after dog fighting was forbidden by the parliament in 1835, they were used against rats (Semencic, 1984)."

"Breeding of pedigree dogs in the modern sense only existed since the middle of the 19th century. In 1859 the first dog show was held in England. With the establishment of the British Kennel Club in 1873 the framework for affiliation in breed, breeding and exhibition was laid (Zimen, 1992). In the mid 1800's the American Kennel Club was established." (Stur 2001)

Identification of Breeds

"Identification of individual dogs is possible on the basis of inherent and acquired markings; the possibility of error can never be excluded. Unmistakable identification is possible on the basis of definition of blood groups respectively polymorphous protein and enzyme systems (Schleger and Stur 1986), on the basis of DNA- fingerprints (Jeffreys and Morton1987 Georges et al.,

1988) as well as with microchip identification (N.N.,1993)

Based on blood groups, polymorphous protein- and enzyme systems as well as DNA -fingerprints respectively canine micro satellites, the verification of an indicated lineage of two specific parent dogs is possible in an individual dog (Morton et al., 1987; Binns et al., 1995; Fredholm and Wintero, 1996; ZAJC and Sampson,1996).

Identification of a particular breed affiliation is nevertheless only possible based on exterior markings which are defined in the breed standards; however in an individual case the undoubted affiliation of a dog to a breed is only partially possible.

Of course, based on canine DNA markers one can execute genealogical studies about the genetic distance between breeds or populations (Fredholm and Wintero, 1995; Okumara et al., 1996; Pihkanen et al., 1996; ZAJC et al., 1997) but affiliation of a single dog to a certain breed or the determination of lineage of a mixed breed dog of certain breeds based on canine markers is not possible according to current scientific standings (Templeton,1990)." (Stur 2001)

Fatalities by Breeds of Dog

A study at the University of Washington (Bandow, 1966) shows a comparison between the shares of breeds in bite incidents in comparison with the recorded numbers. In this study, no statistical insurance regarding the deviation of breed dispersion resulted. The breed statistic, moreover, is according to the testimony of the author, to be viewed with reservation. Breed association is based on testimony of the victim who can not always in an accident situation correctly identify the breed of attacking dog, or based on the testimony of the owner who does not always state the correct breed.

As for statistics used to support the idea that some breeds are more dangerous, the numbers are misleading, said Anthony Pobderscek of the University of Cambridge

Veterinary School. "There's a problem getting records," he said. "Golden Retrievers bite, Labrador Retrievers bite, but don't get reported." Dr Wagner presented the results of a study on the "dangerous dog" laws of Germany earlier this week at the meeting of the International Society for Anthrozoology in Davis, Calif. Although they look different, dog "breeds" have no more scientific basis than do "races" among humans, said canine researcher James Serpell of the University of Pennsylvania.

According to RIECK (1977),the biting dog is typically male, younger than two years, and belongs to a working dog breed (e.g. Shepherd or Rottweiler), or is for instance a Cocker Spaniel, or a Chow Chow, and originates in mass breeding in which temperament or other desired qualities of a dog are not considered in breeding. The author quotes a statistic about deaths through dog bites. In 34 death cases in 1989 to 1990, 10 cases were caused by Nordic breeds like the Husky, Samoyed or Malamute, 10 further cases were caused by Pit Bull type (mix) dogs uncertain of positive identification. Seven deaths were caused by German Shepherds, 3 by Dobermans, 1 by a Rottweiler, and 4 by other breeds.

To claim one breed is more responsible for human fatalities is impossible. Some would chose to single out the Pit Bull ,due to the fact there are estimated statistics and the type of dogs that resemble the Pit Bull are such a wide variety that we find American Bulldogs, Boxers, and Mastiff's labeled as Pit Bulls. It is impossible to compare different breeds of dogs versus human fatalities.

The Washington Animal Foundation did a survey on human fatalities by dogs in 2001 and came up with these figures, Rottweiler (6); Labrador (2); Pomeranian (1); German Shepherd (2);Chow (1);Wolf-Hybrid (1);Akita (1); Doberman (1); Beagle (1); Presa Canario (2); Pit Bull (1); mixed breeds (6). When comparing these figures with the human fatali-

ties from 1975-80 by Pickney & Kennedy, Traumatic Deaths from Dog Attacks in the United States, the report identified the following as responsible for human fatalities during the study period from May, 1975 to April, 1980: German Shepherd (16); Husky (9); St. Bernard (8); Bull Terrier (6); Great Dane (6); Malamute (5); Golden Retriever (3); Boxer (2); Dachshund (2); Doberman Pinscher (2); Collie (2); Rottweiler (1); Basenji (1); Chow-Chow (1); Labrador Retriever (1); Yorkshire Terrier (1); mixed and unknown breeds (15). One would question the accuracy of human fatalities by dogs from current reports and especially the statistics on the Pit Bull. When looked at from a more realistic point of view one would find Shepherds and other working dogs rate higher in fatalities. However, given the increasing population of dog breeds at any given time, it is impossible to compare one breed to another.

20% of deaths involve unrestrained dogs off the owner's property, 70% involve unrestrained dogs on the owner's property, and 10% involve restrained dogs on the owner's property. Unrestrained dogs are responsible for a high number of dog bite reports and attacks to other animals. Over 30 breeds of dogs have been involved in 400 human deaths in a 30 year period.

In researching dog bite incident reports for the year 2000 in Pontiac Michigan, our Foundation found a high number of mixed breeds biting but no human fatalities. Chow Chows were the dogs biting unprovoked more than other breeds. We found a high percentage of teasing or tormenting of dogs which in turn caused them to bite. We found Sight Hounds responsible for deaths to other animals, yet the breeds you hear about in the media did not rate high. We find, because of the media attention focused on specific breeds such as the Pit Bull, that the real statistics are never brought to the attention of the general public or the politicians, which in turn does nothing to protect the safety of the public. This misinformation

affects the political pressure concerning the passing of breed bans instead of focusing on passing strong dangerous dog laws that target the irresponsible owners of all breeds of dog. (ACF2003)

Cost of Breed Specific Legislation

In England, legislation was passed banning specific breeds of dogs in 1991. The legislation has not worked and cost millions of dollars to impound and remove only a small number of dogs banned: Costs to police forces in England and Wales of operating the 1991 Act (first three years following introduction);

1992-93 = £1,605,137

1993-94 = £1,195,421

1994-95 = £825,257

'The costs incurred by the MPS in administering the Act in respect of kenneling, transport and veterinary fees have been considered and are as follows:'

Kenneling;

1992-93 - £1,263,763

1993-94 - £773,469

1994-95 - £443,646

1995-96 - £368,000

Vet/Transport;

1992-93 - £66,075

1993-94 - £77,418

1994-95 - £57,829

1995-96 - £47,000

Totals:

1992-93 - £1,329,838

1993-94 - 0.85 million

1994-95 - 0.5 million

1995-96 - £415,000 projected
(actual £0.7 million)

3) Baroness Blatch 1994

In response to a question in the House, admitted that in the Met. Police area alone costs had reached £2.8 Million.

1992-1993 - 1.3 million

1993-1994 - 0.85 million

1994-1995 - 0.7 million

4) Mr. Nicholas Baker

In response to Mr. Gale MP, March 1995,

confirmed there were 133 dogs held in police custody in England & Wales.

31 - held for more than 3 months

73 - held for more than 6 months

The daily cost of keeping dogs in custody ranged between £1.76 to £9

per day Hansard 2/3/95 Col.657.658

(Poul Poulsen ACF2003)

In the United States, cities have spent millions of dollars attempting to enforce breed bans and all efforts have failed. In Dade County Florida, a breed ban was passed on Pit Bull type dogs in 1988, yet as of 2002 an estimated fifty thousand Pit Bull type dogs populate Dade County. In Saginaw Michigan, a breed ban was repealed several years ago because of the cost of impounding dogs and the legal cost to the city for its defense against dog owners who filed civil action.

In Saginaw, City Attorney Catherine R. Ginster stated "aside how the ordinance was adopted and its enforcement, a major problem exists as to the adequacy in terms of the number of available pens within the Animal Shelter to hold animals for protracted periods. The county does not have the capacity to hold "vicious dogs" for periods beyond which the State law specifies."

In 2001, Baltimore, Maryland projected it would cost over 750,000 dollars a year to attempt to enforce legislation directed at specific breeds and voted against breed specific legislation.

In Pontiac, Michigan, WAF had filed a lawsuit against the city on December 13, 2001 for passing breed specific legislation without giving public notice, it was repealed. In all reality, breed specific legislation cannot be enforced; and where it has been enacted, it has been proven it could not be enforced.

In 2002 Huntsville Alabama spent over 70,000 dollars declaring American Pit Bull Terriers dangerous and appealed a case (Shelia Tack v Huntsville) to the Supreme Court. A decision came back ruling in favor of the trial court upholding American Pit Bull Terriers as not genetically dangerous. (ACF2003)

Is Breed Specific Legislation Constitutional?

Banning a specific breed of dog could only be declared constitutional if there were scientific genetic proof that a specific breed of dog is dangerous. The breed bans placed on the Pit Bulls and other breeds are clearly unconstitutional, which is why we find 11 states in the United States that have passed laws making it illegal to declare a dog dangerous by breed. The Pit Bull is not dangerous, it is a "Terrier" and all terriers have animal prey drive, this does not make them dangerous or vicious. The human fatalities by dogs from our research show that one breed of dog cannot be singled out. "The Pit Bull has to be trained to fight." (HSUS 2002).

To be declared a danger to the public to the extent of taking away the constitutional rights of dog owners, the breed of dog in question would need to be proven dangerous with scientific evidence. This is something WAF has found to never have been addressed to the extent it should be.

1. There is no scientific proof that any one breed of dog is more or less dangerous than another.
2. There is no positive way to identify a dog breed with genetics.
3. There are no accurate dog bite statistics.
4. The dog breeds listed as the cause of human fatalities are estimated and not accurate.
5. According to the most recent survey taken, the breeds mentioned in various reports and so often broadcast by the media are in fact not where the problem exists.
6. The so called fighting breeds, which some would classify as "Terriers" have to be trained to fight, therefore it is only constitutional to prohibit illegal dog fighting and training dogs to fight.
7. All breeds of dogs have animal prey drive and are able to fight with other dogs or animals.

Breed specific legislation is not constitutional and when realistically looked upon, it does nothing but enhance illegal activity to the point of taking the responsible owners away from owning dogs and leaving the criminals to illegally obtain dogs banned. It turns responsible dog owners into criminals. Breed specific legislation endangers the general public by banning specific breeds of dogs, when scientific proof states that the environment and training of a dog is the outcome of its temperament and not genetics, if one breed is taken from an irresponsible owner, then all that will happen is that individual will obtain another breed to train and abuse in the same manner as the previous breed. (ACF2003)

If the legislation's intent is to ban breeds because of dog fighting, then why is there no legislation in place to ban Shar-Pei's, Mastiff's of all varieties including English, Neapolitan, Pyrenean, Spanish, Tibetan and Bull Mastiff's, Akita's, Tosa's, Presa's, Boston Terriers, and other breeds that were supposedly bred for fighting?

If the breed bans are being passed to target breeds that kill humans, then why are not all the breeds listed banned?

German Shepherd
Husky
Doberman
Chow
Great Dane
Saint Bernard
Golden Retriever
Malamute
Bull Terrier
Pit Bull
Collie
Labrador Retriever
Yorkshire Terrier
Basenji
Dachshund
Boxer
Bull Mastiff
Neo Mastiff
Old English Mastiff

Beagle
Wolf Hybrid
Pomeranian
Akita
Presa
Rottweiler
Cocker Spaniels
Springer Spaniels
Irish Wolfhound
Irish Setter
Poodle

The intent of the animal rights movement that supports breed bans is to take away pet ownership. This information can be found on websites of the well known animal rights organizations. They are targeting two breeds at this time, Pit Bulls and Rottweilers. (ACF2003)

Is There Scientific Genetic Proof Dogs are Dangerous?

There is no scientific proof that Pit Bulls, or any other breed of dog is dangerous. The Foundation's collective experience and research has found the American Pit Bull Terrier is a "terrier." All terriers have animal prey drive, but this does not make them dangerous or vicious. The Pit Bull type dog has to be trained to fight. Although in some cases the Pit Bull is known to be a fighting dog, it was not bred for fighting, but for bull baiting. The Pit Bull type dog comes from Europe and evolved from some Mastiff based breed such as with some Bulldog blood either in a pure form or to a variation of any of the many terrier and hound groups beginning with the now extinct Black and Tans Terriers and Olde English White Terriers. English and Irish immigrants imported the dogs. Unfortunately, it was discovered in the late 1800's that if trained, the dogs could be used in the inhumane sport of dog fighting. Due to federal laws passed in the 1970's prohibiting dog fighting fewer dogs are now trained for the illegal sport.

The American Pit Bull Terrier is shown in the American Kennel Club (AmStaff), United

Kennel Club, American Dog Breeders Association, Canadian Kennel Club, and the American Rare Breed Association . The American Pit Bull Terrier is shown in the conformation and obedience ring. This breed competes in weight pull events in the ADBA, UKC and International Weight Pulling Association. The American Temperament Test Society (POBox 4093, St Louis, and MO 63136 Phone 314-869-6103, in the 24 years of testing over 185 breeds of dog, rates the Pit Bull at 83.1%. This is higher than the national average for all other breeds of dog. This means the Pit Bull has the best overall temperament. The American Pit Bull Terrier also rates high in the Canine Good Citizens Test. The Pit Bull is used for Search and Rescue and as a Therapy dog. Our Foundation uses them along with other breeds for bite prevention and responsible ownership classes in the Washington School Districts. Two US Presidents owned Pit Bulls and countless famous people own them. In our country more families own the Pit Bull than any other dog breed in existence. (WAFamicus Alabama 2002)

From American Canine Foundation:

There is an estimated 4.8 million registered American Pit Bull Terriers that have been selective bred for companionship and conformation dog shows. These dogs are not bred for dog fighting and HSUS estimates 200,000 thousands Pit Bulls are used for illegal activity. There is no proof that the 4.8 million APBT's are included in this figure, because the registries AKC/UKC/ADBA that register these dogs prohibit illegal dog fighting. If it could be proved that any of the registered APBT's were involved in illegal activity, it would be less than 4 percent out of 4.8 million. There is an estimated 52 million dogs in the United States and the American Pit Bull Terrier takes up 9.6 percent of the dog population and that does not count unregistered ones. There is no such dog called a Pit Bull Type Dog, it would be a mix breed. (ACF2003)

Dr. Cornelia Wagner DVM, an expert on canine behavior from the University of Wisconsin, states:

BLAMING THE GENETIC MAKEUP OF THE DOG IS WRONG. (Fedderson-Peterson, D.U.(2001) Zur Biologie des aggression des Hundes, Disch Tierarzil, Wschr 108 (3),94-101, environmental and learning effects are always stronger than genetic influence. Although certain dog breeds such as the Rottweiler and American Pit Bull Terrier have the reputation of having stronger jaws than other breeds, valuable scientific studies showing significant differences in jaw strength among breeds does not exist. In summary, the classification of dog breeds with respect to their relative danger to humans makes no sense, as both the complex antecedent conditions in which aggressive behavior occurs, and its ramifying consequences in the individual dog's ecological and social environment are not considered."

The American Canine Foundation states:

"According to the current scientific research there is no proof that the Pit Bull can bite harder than any other breed. There is no proof that the Pit Bull is genetically vicious and statistics have been greatly manipulated. Environment, training and socialization play a much greater part in the temperament of an individual dog than genetic traits." (ACF2003)

Cities and States Concerning BSL

In the year 2001 and 2002 the Washington Animal Foundation has stopped and repealed BSL or worked with other organizations and responsible dog owners to reach that goal. Below is a list:

STATES:

State of Louisiana
State of New Hampshire
State of Florida
State of Maryland
State of Delaware
State of California
State of Washington
Washington DC

CITIES:

Pontiac, Michigan
Walla Walla, Washington
Tukwila, Washington
Acadia Parish, Louisiana
Canton, Ohio
Lorain, Ohio
Broward County, Florida
Saginaw, Michigan
Ft. Lewis, Washington
Cheney, Kansas
Los Angeles, California
Santa Cruz, California
Huntsville, Alabama
Sacramento, California

To view legislative information go to
<http://legislation2002.tripod.com/> or
www.waf-legislation.org

In 2002 two very important cases regarding breed specific legislation prevailed. August 2002 (WAF/Shelia Tack v Huntsville Alabama) the Alabama Supreme Court affirmed a trial court decision that American Pit Bull Terriers are not genetically dangerous.

In November 2002 in Acadia Parish, La. (EBA v Acadia Parish) The 6th District Court ruled American Pit Bull Terriers are not dangerous and BSL unconstitutional.

Conclusion

There is no scientific proof that genetics cause a breed of dog to be aggressive, vicious or dangerous. Irresponsible owners are to blame for the behavior of dogs that are aggressive, vicious or dangerous. Breed specific legislation is an injustice, as is genocide of a specific breed of dog.

It's been well established dogs are personal property *Brown v. Muhlenberg Township*, 269 F.3d 205,209-10(3d Cir.2001) , *Fuller v. Vines*, 36 F. 3d 65, 68 (9th Cir.1994) , *Lesh v. Reed*, 12 F. 3d 148, 150-51 (8th Cir. 1994) and in a recent a recent case *Altam v. High Point No. 02-1178 4d (4th Cir. 2003)*. The Federal 4th Circuit Court ruled " we conclude that the dogs in this case do qualify as property protected by the Fourth

Amendment". Therefore they should be protected property under the 4th, 5th, 8th and 14th Amendments of the U.S. Constitution.

Breed specific laws criminalize United States citizens. Responsible dog owners fall victim to these types of laws, responsible dog owners greatly outweigh irresponsible dog owners. Dog owners who violate are subject to criminal charges which include a criminal record. In *People v Al Munin A. Jabaar*, 163 Misc. 2d 1045; 623 N.Y.S. 2d500; 1994 N.Y.Misc. LEXIS 643, November 1, 1994 the case addressed selective laws, the court found selective laws violate equal protection. German Shepherds are responsible for more reported dog bites and fatal attacks yet there are no laws restricting or prohibiting ownership. The American Canine Foundation has researched fatal dog attacks since 1970, in some journals published the claim is Pit Bulls are responsible for the majority of fatal attacks. Accurate statistics show mixed breeds are responsible for the majority of fatal attacks, some journals list Pit Bull type dogs for fatal attacks, there is no scientific evidence to verify a dog's content therefore the foundation classifies those dogs as (mixed breed) because it looks like a Pit Bull does not mean it has Pit Bull in its breeding, there are over 25 dog breeds that resemble the American Pit Bull Terrier. When reviewing fatal dog attacks since 1970 the foundation finds over 280 mixed breed dogs responsible for fatal attacks. The majority of these fatal attacks were to children left unattended with dogs by irresponsible parents. Based on fatal dog attacks alone there is no rational basis to ban any specific breed of dog when research reveals it's the irresponsible owners and negligent parents.

In *Sentel v. New Orleans & Carrallton Railroad* (1896) 166 US 698 nothing was stated to allow selective laws against specific breeds of dog, it was stated that it is "practically impossible by statute to distinguish between the different dog breeds".Id. at 701. 49 states afford U.S. citizens due process

rights for dog ownership under state dangerous dog statutes, ten states prohibit selective dog laws at the state and local level.

In *Akron v. Tipton* (1989) 53 Ohio Misc. 2d18. It was claimed that Pit Bulls have extreme aggression towards other animals and humans and can attack without warning. It was also stated that Pit Bulls have extremely strong jaw pressure. Current scientific evidence proves none of these findings to be accurate.

Dr. Irene Stur from the Genetics Department of the University of Veterinarian Medicine, Vienna provides research that proves within 3 generations of selective breeding a dog's bloodline temperament can be changed. American Canine Foundation whose members have testified in Supreme Court cases on canine genetics agree with this evidence. The American Staffordshire Terrier and the American Pit Bull Terrier have been selective bred for companionship and conformation dog shows since 1936 and if a dog owner is charged with illegal dog fighting they will be barred from the American Kennel Club and the United Kennel Club which register the American Pit Bull and Staffordshire Terrier. The AKC registers the Amstaff and the breed is no longer bred for animal prey drive and never has the dog been bred for human aggression.

There have been statements that laws have become common in the United States constraining Pit Bulls, this is not accurate. In the years 2001-2003 attempted specific breed legislation has been stopped at the state level in, Louisiana, New Hampshire, Florida, Maryland, Delaware, California, Washington and Washington DC, all the legislators in these states found this type of legislation to be ineffective and refused to pass it. Cities in the past 3 years have also repealed or refused this type of legislation, Pontiac Mi., Walla Walla, Wa. Tukwila, Wa., Acadia Parish La., Canton Oh., Lorain Oh., Broward County Fl., Saginaw Mi., Ft. Lewis Wa., Cheney Ks., Los Angeles Ca., Santa Cruz.,

Huntsville Al., Sacramento Ca., and Algona Wa. This year in New Jersey which has a state law prohibiting selective breed legislation, Assemblyman Burzichelli attempted to pass A2906 to repeal the existing state law to be able to restrict Pit Bulls and Rottweilers, in the end the Assemblyman withdrew from A2906 and the bill did not pass.

Evidence used in previous cases where breed specific laws were upheld under constitutional challenges was not accurate, scientific evidence was not present in the findings. Statistics had been manipulated and only partial facts were presented. There is no rational basis to pass selective laws that discriminate and criminalize responsible dog owners and there is no compensation for the taking of property of US citizens.

There are over 30 breeds of dogs listed responsible for human fatalities. Banning one or two breeds, declaring them to be dangerous, or placing restrictions on them does nothing to insure the safety of the public. Breeds from the Pomeranian to the Bull Mastiff have killed humans, and in most cases they were provoked. To understand the support of breed bans, one would have to view the movement directed at extermination of specific breeds by certain animal rights groups. It is their intent to stop domestic pet ownership. It is a known fact there is an ongoing federal investigation taking place into the animal rights movement. There has been evidence released showing minimal funding has gone to Humane Shelters or Animal Control for enforcing existing dangerous dog laws by this movement. However, there is heavy support by certain animal rights groups directed at the extermination of specific breeds, and this can be found on their websites. It is unconstitutional to victimize responsible owners and turn them into criminals and cruel to punish specific breeds of dogs. (ACF2003)

On August 30, 2002 the Alabama Supreme Court affirmed a Trial Court decision that American Pit Bull Terriers are not

vicious. The American Pit Bull Terriers were born at the Huntsville Animal Shelter, after more than two years the Alabama Supreme court gave them their freedom.

Reported by Attorney S. Zendorf

"On August 30, 2002 the Alabama Supreme Court affirmed a Circuit Court Decision that four American Pit Bull Terriers born at the Huntsville Animal Control Shelter "did not lack any useful purpose" as required by the local ordinance. *Huntsville v. Four Pit Bull Puppies* (Ala. 08-30-02), No. 1010459, unreported. The court determined that the puppies were not trained to fight and were not vicious. In addition, it held that three women who wanted to adopt them had a right to intervene. The City of Huntsville claimed the Pit Bull puppies were genetically dangerous, used expert witness testimony, and appealed to the Alabama Supreme Court after the lower court rejected its arguments and evidence.

The Alabama Supreme Court granted the Washington Animal Foundation's petition to participate in the proceedings as Amicus Curiae because the Foundation is an expert on canine genetics. The Foundation provided expert testimony to prove that Pit Bulls and other breeds are not inherently genetically dangerous and must be trained to fight".

S. Zendorf (Attorney at Law)

Legislation

One of the most serious problems with some of the existing "dangerous dog laws" is that the dog may face destruction or lengthy impoundment, while the owner receives little or no punishment. Irresponsible owners are chronic repeat offenders of animal control laws. Thus, the dog suffers the consequences of its owner's irresponsibility.

1. Do the current laws address each of the problem areas with dogs?
2. Are they being enforced?
3. Is there a problem with repeat offenders?

Problems stem from inadequate budget or manpower to enforce the laws, inade-

quate training to effectively deal with the problem dogs in a humane way and low priority of animal control issues. Poor community education of existing animal control laws and lack of judicial support in upholding effective penalties also create serious problems. Strong laws that penalize the owners, regardless of the breed, are what are needed. These types of laws are valid, have merit, and are not vague or capricious. Non-breed specific laws are valid under the Constitution, and are for the protection of the public welfare and safety with the degree of precision that characterizes effective legislation.

The only justice for the irresponsible owner are strong penalties such as the state of Washington RCW16.08.100 penalties for owners of dogs allowed to cause damage, bite, or perpetrate unprovoked attacks on other animals and humans.

The American Canine Foundation does not support breed specific legislation and has drafts of laws available for control of dangerous dogs.

AMERICAN CANINE FOUNDATION

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<http://legislation2002.tripod.com>

<http://members.tripod.com/waf4/index.htm>

Research included:

Dr Stur

Dr. Wagner

Pickney and Kennedy

ACF

WAF

Poul Poulsen

Additional Scientific Data on Jaw Locking and Bite Pressure:

The following quote was sent to me from Dr. Howard Evans, Professor Emeritus, College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University, Ithaca New York. We were colleagues in the veterinary college for four years. He is the author of the textbook, ANATOMY OF THE DOG, (the world's defini-

tive work on the anatomy of the dog). His statement was in a letter addressed to me on March 26, 2002. His quote was: "I have spoken with [Dr.] Sandy deLahunta (the foremost dog neurologist in the country) and [DR.] Katherine Houpt (a leading dog behaviorist) about a jaw locking mechanism in pit bulls or any other dog and they both say, as do I, that there is NO SUCH THING AS "JAW LOCKING IN ANY BREED.

We all agree that the power of the bite is proportional to the size of the jaws and the jaw muscles. There is no anatomical structure that could be a locking mechanism in any dog." As a Professor Emeritus from the College of Veterinary Medicine at Michigan State University, I agree completely with their conclusion.

You might want to circulate this statement to all your pit bull members as a definitive statement from three of the world's leading authorities on the anatomy of the dog. Maybe this will help to dispel this myth that seem to be so frequently quoted as a reason for banning these animals.

I will also try to talk with Sen. Thomas and present his office with the information that a ban on pit bulls is not the solution to the dangerous dog problem.

Pit bull owners can do a number of things to convince the legislators that this is not good public policy. I would like to encourage all individuals who oppose the introduction of this legislation to read and promote the conclusions in a report by the Task Force on Canine Aggression and Human Canine

Interactions. This task force was appointed by the American Veterinary Medical Association and their conclusions were published in 2001 under the title of "A Community Approach to Dog Bite Prevention." The entire article can be downloaded from the AVMA web page, <www.avma.org>. On the home page, scroll down on the menu on the left side of the screen to "Features" and click on "A community approach to dog bite prevention." In this article, pay attention to the qualifica-

tions of the members of the task force.

Included in this list are representatives of the following groups: American Veterinary Medical Association; American Academy of Pediatrics; American College of Emergency Physicians; The Professional Liability Insurance Trust; American College of Veterinary Behaviorist; A representative of the Insurance Industry; American Medical Association; AVMA Animal Welfare Committee; Humane Society of the United States; National Animal Control Association; Center for Disease Control; and the AVMA Council on Public Relations.

In the body of the report, especially note the statement under "Breed or type Bans" on page 1736 of the report. The first paragraph under this heading reads: "Concerns about 'dangerous' dogs have caused many local governments to consider supplementing existing animal control laws with ordinances directed toward control of specific breeds or types of dogs. Member of the Task Force believe such ordinances are inappropriate and ineffective. Subsequent paragraphs support the reasons for this conclusion. This whole statement would be useful to present to any local group proposing a ban on pit bulls.

I would welcome the pit bull owners in Michigan sending the following information to me so that we can establish a network of citizens that will communicate with their senators and representatives in the Michigan Legislature regarding any ban legislation that may be proposed. Send me your name, address, telephone number, e-mail address, and the legislative district, both house and senate, where you vote.

**Prepared by: Al W. Stinson, D.V.M.
Director of Legislative Affairs, Michigan Association for Pure Bred Dogs, and the Michigan Hunting Dog Federation, and a Member of the Board of Directors of the American Dog Owners Association**

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Pit Bull Educational Packet
by Marcy Setter

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adoptive families.

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Pit Bull Rescue Central
<http://www.pbrc.net/home.html>
For their dedication to helping homeless
pit bulls in need, and for their tireless
efforts in educating the public about
these wonderful, often misrepresented
breeds.

Our inspirations:
Dakota Blue, American Pit Bull Terrier
Destiny, American Pit Bull Terrier
Boo, American Pit Bull Terrier
Nitro, rescued American Pit Bull Terrier
Taura, rescued American Pit Bull Terrier
Sadie, rescued Pit Bull mix
Maddie and Alfred, rescued American
Pit Bull Terriers "brother and sister"
Sydney, rescued American Pit Bull Terrier
Bradley, foster dog, American
Staffordshire Terrier