

Pit Bulls
The Real Deal



You think you know... But you have no idea!

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Pit Bulls - The Real Deal

To start, Pit Bull is not a breed of dog, it's a term typically used to group 3 breeds of dog, the American Pit Bull Terrier (ABPT), American Staffordshire Terrier (AMSTAFF) and the Staffordshire Terrier (STAFFIE).



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! The majority of domestic violence in the US is caused by men, are all men considered evil and dangerous, No. Then why would all Pit Bulls be dangerous because of a few bad owners?

For hundreds of years Pit Bulls were bred to fight dogs, certain traits were bred into the bloodlines for that purpose, such as a high pain tolerance, high prey drive, etc. However a quality that was never bred into pit bulls 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.

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.

So you may ask yourself, who would own a pit bull? Well here are a few:

- 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'Nique (NY Mets)
- James Ellroy (Author)
- Amy Poehler (Actress)
- Barbra Eden
- Rosie Perez
- Kelli Williams, actress from 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

Pit Bull Stories you rarely hear about on the News

- 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 winters 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 US Marine stationed in Japan
- Norton, who saved his human moms life after she had gone into anaphylactic shock from a spider bite by awaking his dad and taking him to his unconcious wife. Norton was rescued from a fight ring, went to the master bedroom and kept pushing her husband until he awoke and followed Norton to his wife.
- Petunia the Pit Bull visits schools and assists in teaching kids about Responsible pet ownership.

- Spikes is a service dog for a quadriplegic who couldn't function without Spikes 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 2 bites to the face. Those bites would have killed the kids.
- Blueberry, a young APBT, saved her owners life by pouncing on 2 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 rattle snake 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 damn to break on the Tijuana River. Weela would pull 30 to 50lbs 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 Rations Dog Hero of the Year!

Urban Legends

Pit Bulls have locking jaws. NO! The pit bulls jaws are the same as any other breed of dog! Any Veterinarian can verify this is simply a myth. Pit Bulls have been bred to not let go, however, their jaws are not locked.

Actually pit bulls do less damage because they bite and hold, where other dogs bite/release/bite that causes more bleeding and damage.

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 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 Tierarztl, 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)

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.

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.

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 11+ 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 links to tests, you try to pick the pit bull!

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

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

"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 Morton 1987 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) (ACF 2003)

FATALITIES BY BREEDS OF DOG (ACF 2003)

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 Amercian 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 fatalities 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.

Questions and Answers

Question: Are pit bulls good with children?

Answer: Properly raised and socialized 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 Shepard's, Great Pyrenees, etc should be considered dangerous to humans as well.

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 and Vet. 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. I've read many stories where the reporter obviously hadn't done any research, when I asked about their statistics they choose not to reply.

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 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.

Life with a Pit Bull



Life with a pit bull can be somewhat different than with other dogs. Pit Bulls require a lot of human attention. They believe they are human and want to be with you every moment of every day! No matter where in the house I go, Dakota is right behind.

Here is some typical moments in our lives with our precious girls to give you an idea of life with a Pit Bull!

We have 3 in our family. My parents have a 3 yr old red nose girl named Taboo, my sister has a 4 yr old red nose girl named Destiny and I have a 1 yr old old black nose girl, Dakota Blue (Known as the Black Sheep due to her nose color). They are fantastic dogs and all have different personalities, but a lot of things in common!

With these guys your never alone, including bathroom visits! Boo will sit in front of you with her head on your knee patiently waiting, Dakota feels she has a captive play partner and will bring you every toy she owns in hopes of playing and Destiny just lays there whining wondering when you will throw the ball or stick.



Taboo is very mellow and travels everywhere with the folks! Boo is the most emotional of the group, she is so very expressive and often acts like a toddler in her terrible 2's! When Boo doesn't get her way, she will storm from a room, lay in her bed and watch you like you have just committed the most horrendous crime.

She is also very sneaky! She will wake my dad up by faking the need to go outside at 2am. When he reaches the door, he turns to see her sitting in the dining room, as soon as she knows he sees her, she darts in and takes his spot in bed! She is also very famous for faking an outside trip to get the other dogs away from a good chewy!



Destiny is the forever puppy and is always going 100mph! This dog would play fetch 24/7 if you were willing. She looks like Petey from the Little Rascals and brings smiles to everyone's face! Destiny is also our kissy dog, she wants kisses all the time and will do anything to get them! The more you resist the more she wants a

kiss. Destiny is also very emotional, if she thinks she hurt you when jumping up or sitting in your lap, she will get so upset and try to kiss it better. Destiny gets along with everyone and everything! She has never met anyone that she didn't like. She keeps an eye on her sister, Midnight, a black cat. They get along great and Destiny even reminds Midnight not to claw the furniture.



Then there is Dakota the youngest member of the family. Dakota is like having a toddler, she wants your attention all the time! She loves to play with other dogs which is like watching a wrestling match. Dakota's favorite spot is sitting next to me in the big chair with my arm laying on her. She has been through two obedience classes and earned a CGC title in hopes of becoming a Certified hospital therapy dog someday. She has picked up some of Taboos poutiness when things don't go her way and her favorite pass time is going to the lake to swim and hike.

One of her cutest traits is when she's excited, she has be carrying something. Her favorite thing to carry is shoes, she doesn't chew them, just runs around the house hiding them. When it's time to go out, there is typically a 15 minute shoe search.

Would you like to learn more? How about helping out some animals in need? Visit the websites below and see what you can do to help change the world one dog at a time! Please visit the websites listed on the following page to learn more.

Breed Specific Legislation (BSL) Information

BSL is when cities and states place restrictions or ban dogs based their breed. This is form of Racisim and can not be tolerated! There are those dogs owned and loved by responsible owners, then there are those unfortunate dogs that are owned by irresponsable owners.

IS BREED SPECIFIC LEGISLATION CONSTITUTIONAL? (ACF 2003)

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)

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 to 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. (ACF 2003)

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, inadequate 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 is needed. These types of laws are valid, have merit, 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. (ACF 2003)

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) , Leshner v. Reed, 12 F. 3d 148, 150-51 (8th Cir. 1994) and in a recent 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.

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 Amercian 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 usefull 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 Hunstville 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 Foundations'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)

Informational Sites

www.understand-a-bull.com

www.pitbullsontheweb.com

www.workingpitbull.com

www.forpitsake.org

Www.pbrc.net

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

Pit Bull Rescue Groups

www.pbrc.net

www.vrcpitbull.com

www.apbpets.com

www.pitbullsontheweb.com/mpr/

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

A special thanks to all who helped in putting this pamphlet together and to the American Canine Foundation for all the Scientific and Statistical Data.