



Pit Bull Rescue Central

Where Education Meets Rescue

Pit Bull Rescue Central (PBRC) fully supports reasonable, non-breed specific, dangerous dog laws; laws that will protect responsible owner's rights and promote a safe community for all residents.

PBRC does not support any form of breed specific legislation (BSL), which targets specific breed(s) for restrictions or bans. We know that BSL is ineffective, costly to residents and unfair to responsible dog owners. Below are some facts regarding BSL and Pit Bulls.

- **Costs associated with BSL may include:**

- Payroll for additional Animal Control officers to enforce the legislation.
- Kenneling cost to house the pets that are seized or given up.
- Additional vet care for animals who are seized because the breed has been banned or restricted. These dogs are held by the city or county while owners work to meet restriction requirements, or file lawsuits to fight the ban.
- Court costs (Many responsible dog owners are choosing to fight these laws in courts and they are winning the cases).
- Baltimore, MD estimated that in 2001 it cost the city \$750,000.00 a year to enforce their BSL and they repealed it in favor of a non-breed specific law.

- **Breed Identification:**

- Pit bull is not, in fact, a breed of dog. The term "Pit Bull" is typically associated with these three breeds: American Staffordshire Terrier; American Pit Bull Terrier; and Staffordshire Bull Terrier.
- The only way to identify a dog's breed is by its appearance. There is no genetic test to determine a specific dog breed. There are 25+ breeds of dogs that have similar appearances and are commonly mistaken for pit bulls. It is almost impossible for the average person to accurately identify a pit bull.

- **BSL is Unconstitutional as found by US Courts:**

- *The United States Supreme Court - Nicchia v. People of the State of New York 254 U.S. 228 (1920)* : gave police the power to regulate and control dangerous dogs with drastic measures, as long as it does not infringe on the dog owner's right to liberty with due process.
- *The Alabama Supreme Court - WAF/Sheila Tack v. Huntsville Alabama (2002)*: upheld a decision that pit bulls were no more inherently dangerous than any other breed. This case was very costly to the city of Huntsville.
- *The Toledo Municipal Court- Tellings v. City of Toledo CRB-02-15267 (ACF 2005)*: ruled American Pit Bull Terriers are not dangerous and granted dog owner's due process rights.
- *The Ohio Supreme Court - State v. Cowan (103 Ohio St. 3d 144, 2004-Ohio-4777)(2004)* struck down ORC955:11 which declared the "Pit Bull" vicious, because it violates our rights to be heard (due process).
- Westbury, NY (Spring 2003) court ruled that the city's BSL was unconstitutional and repealed the law.

- **Organizations against Breed Specific Legislation:**
 - American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)
 - The American Kennel Club (AKC)
 - The United Kennel Club (UKC)
 - American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA)
 - Dog Legislation Council of Canada (DLCC)
 - American Temperament Testing Society (ATTS)
 - National Animal Control Association (NACA)
 - Maryland Veterinary Medicine Association
 - Humane Society of the United States (HSUS)
 - American Canine Foundation (ACF)

- **Some common myths about Pit Bulls**
 - “Pit Bulls have locking jaws.” Pit Bulls are members of the canine species and have the same jaw structure as any other dog. If they had a special enzyme or other mechanism allowing them to lock their jaws, we would have to reclassify them as a different species.
 - “Pit Bulls are aggressive toward people.” Pit Bulls have never been bred for human aggression. In fact, Pit Bulls were bred to be loyal, tolerant, and loving toward people, especially children.
 - “Pit Bulls attack more than other breeds.” Not true, bite reports are inaccurate and do not factor in population vs. bites. For instance: 10 attacks by a Doberman relative to a total population of 10 dogs implies a different risk than 10 attacks by a Labrador relative to a population of 1000 dogs. (A community approach to dog bite prevention, AVMA taskforce report)

- **Who would own a Pit Bull?**
 - Anthony Robbins
 - President Theodore Roosevelt
 - Helen Keller
 - Sir Walter Scott
 - Thomas Edison
 - Bernadette Peters
 - Barbara Eden
 - President Woodrow Wilson
 - Michael J. Fox
 - Fred Astaire
 - Alicia Silverstone
 - Rosie Perez

Pit Bulls are also productive, active members of society working in: search and rescue; narcotics detection; hospital therapy; U.S. Customs; the service dog area; educational programs; and more.

Pit Bull Rescue Central (PBRC) is an on-line virtual shelter and educational resource center. We have been on-line since 1996 and received our 501 (c) 3 non-profit status in 2002. PBRC is staffed entirely by volunteers who come from across the United States, Canada and Europe. PBRC works tirelessly to promote spaying and neutering, to educate the public, to present positive pit bull images, and encourage responsible pit bull ownership. If you would like additional information on BSL statistics or Pit Bulls please contact us at pbrc@pitbullinfo.net .