

# **THOMAS SAGESLUSH'S** Support of the **MORONVIA HEIGHTS** Pit Bull Ban (!!)

by **D**ouglas J. **O**gurek

**WHY I LIKE IT: Fiction Editor JOEY CRUSE writes...**

*"Thomas Sageslush's Support of the Moronvia Heights Pit Bull Ban," by Douglas J. Ogurek, is not a new "Modest Proposal." The proposal is not modest, nor is it swift. On the contrary, it is a beautiful, satiric letter that keeps irony in its hands with an icy grip.*

*This piece is a lovely "fuck you" to those in power that make change for the wrong reasons, it is a laughable, yet poignant, middle finger to those who choose to bullshit the masses by making a choice that defeats the entire purpose of why society is complaining.*

*I will be, if not the, first one writing this that says it could be cut by about five pages and still make the same point, because once the irony is dry, and you're only beating the drumskin of a dead horse, then your argument has been made. But, I will also be the, if not first, of Ogurek's praises that explain to you, dear reader, why this piece should be read.*

*Mr. Sagelush's letter is a blanket list of stupidity (certainly not on his part). If you do x, then why haven't you made the obvious leap and done y, and/or, if you're not willing to do y, then why, in your moronic pea brain, do you think x would make a difference?*

*At the heart of Sagelush's concern lies the metaphor of banning pit bulls. I shouldn't have to cut to the heart of dog breed arguments, proven time and time again, that, if raised correctly, pit bulls can be one of the most loyal, well-behaved, and nursing breeds of animal humans have bred, changing wolf into domesticated house pet, but do you think that dogs are born violent or do you think that dogs have been trained to use the power bred in them to fuck someone's day up? I easily fall back on the concept that if they're trained by the good Samaritan vs. dogshit human that raised them, then there would be no problem. Nature only goes so far (people, comparable and compatible, are put down because, ultimately, they're violent garbage too), but nurture certainly makes a goddamn dent.*

*You will read in this letter the statistical comparison of pit bull violence as opposed to the random acts of violence you will encounter as a person in this world. Ogurek's comparison is obviously intentional, sardonic, and appreciated. There will be acronymic puns, "CRAPB" as crappy, DAFT, as just that, there will be not so subtle name hints, "Goobrane," as "goo-brain;" and there will be hyperbole (because where there is hyperbole, there will be blood), and I hope you enjoy them as much as I did.*

*I hope that you come out of this with a different viewpoint on a dog breed you have been scared about, but I also, on a deeper level, hope that you read Ogurek's work and find a newfound sense of fight. Whether you protest, give speeches, sit-in, voice your opinion, or go so far as to "burn this motherfucker down," exposing hypocrisy and the unfair abuses of power that surrounds us are our way out to better society. Education, critical thinking, and empowerment are tools that let us speak truth to power, and education, critical thinking, and empowerment are the exact tools that those with power wish to withhold because of their fear.*

*Ogurek isn't speaking literally of pit bulls, although he certainly can, and may be. Literal or figurative wouldn't change a damn thing about my point on his work. He's creating an environment of absurdity that shows how deep those in control will go to placate without making any change. How superficial those with power "act" because our goldfish brains only think about ourselves and not the global society we live in. How those in control do the bare minimum so we think that they're working in our favor, while they're mostly just fucking us in the ass again. He reminds us how quickly we are to accept, when we should be doing nothing of the sort. Read this letter, it a hot spark that can get a fire rolling, it is to all of us.*

*Five Stars.*

**QUALITY QUOTABLE (for the love of language)...** The fourth element remains the worst. Like many pit bull owners, some claim that they couldn't imagine their lives without it, but let's be realistic: air is a brutal beast biologically predisposed to kill. It carries the sicknesses that kill our elderly. It feeds the fires that burn our houses. It carries the oxygen that allows those dangerous hearts to keep beating. And worst of all, air allows pit bulls to thrive.

Thomas Sageslush's Support of the Moronvia Heights Pit Bull Ban

by

Douglas J. Ogurek

February 17, 2020

The Honorable Stephen Goobrane  
Mayor of Moronvia Heights  
Moronvia Heights Village Hall  
5235 Loon View Street  
Moronvia Heights, Illinois

Dear Mayor Goobrane:

I enthusiastically applaud your support of the recent Moronvia Heights pit bull ban. As a proud member of Concerned Residents Against Pit Bulls (CRAPB), I wholeheartedly agree with

your contention that these abominations that kill 0.00001% of the U.S. population each year “pose a severe threat to our safety and have no place in our community.” It is with this focus on our beloved community’s safety that my fellow CRAPB members and I urge you to consider a few more bans.

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You might be surprised, Mayor Goobrane, that we are nearly twice as likely to be killed by a mammal that is not a dog than we are by Fido. Therefore, we should also ban all other mammals.

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Texting and other cell phone diversions may be responsible for one in four car accidents. Cell phones are 81 times more likely to kill people than dogs of any breed.

Cell phones have more “muscle” than landlines. Often, we blame the drivers for these accidents. In reality, the phones are at fault. They are programmed to attack concentration and delay responses. Moreover, the hypnotic nature of cell phones has forced many people to ignore the law that prohibits their use while driving. Thus, banning cell phones is a critical early step for ensuring our community’s safety.

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Baseball is the most dangerous sport for children aged five to fourteen—each year three to four of them die from baseball-related injuries. And that’s just baseball! How many times have we heard about a young man, in the very prime of his life, dropping dead on the basketball court, the football field, or the running track?

Winter sports are even more dangerous: more than forty Americans die from skiing and snowboard-related accidents in the U.S. each year.

Clearly, sports are another major threat that we must expel from the community. Our young people are three times more likely to be killed by sports than by a dog of any breed, yet we continue to sign up Timmy for little league and Susie for cheerleading.

Now I know that there are many misinformed individuals who see sports as a way to build camaraderie within the community and enhance teamwork skills among children, just as many deluded pit bull owners believe that their dogs are a means of increasing happiness, getting more exercise, and having a more active social life. But let's be sensible—considering that there is a much greater chance of our youth dying while playing sports than of dying by dog attack, it is imperative that we adhere to your pledge to “keep our community as safe as possible by eliminating every threat.” Sports are a threat, so we should prohibit them.

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Each year, suicide accounts for just over one percent and homicide just under one percent of deaths in the U.S. Since people are more than 1,650 times more likely to die by suicide or homicide than by dog attacks, we need to be a bit more liberal with our banning to put an immediate halt to these activities.

Just as it is not the pit bull owners who are responsible for the damage that these dogs have inflicted, but rather the dogs themselves, it is not the murderers or suicides that are responsible for more than 64,000 deaths each year, but rather the weapons that they employ. We should start by banning the most obvious threats: guns, knives, razorblades, etc. And by knives, I don't just mean switchblades and bowie knives. I mean steak and butter knives, paring knives, plastic knives . . . anything that cuts.

We should also ban hammers, wrenches, baseball bats (though these should go with the sports ban), and any other instruments capable of inflicting fatalities on oneself or others. For

instance, Americans are eleven times more likely to die by a hammer or club blow than by a dog attack. Just as our ban ignores the ignorant arguments of those who claim pit bulls can make good companions, so should our weapons ban ignore the nonsensical assertions that hammers can be used for good.

We must not stop at the obvious. Some of the more subtle devices that are responsible for murders and suicides include ropes, wires, and bridges. I propose to head up a committee that would develop a list of “highly dangerous” items to ban. We could call it Denizens Against Fatal Things, or DAFT.

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Forty percent of American adults are obese. Moronvians are not exempt from this statistic. Lack of exercise and unhealthy diets contribute to heart disease and a host of other problems, but what is ultimately to blame?

Using your esteemed anti-pit bull logic, Mayor Goobrane, I think that we’ve wrongly accused people of not taking care of themselves. The true culprits behind our collective corpulence include high-cholesterol, high-fat, and high-sugar foods and beverages. These should all be banned.

These bans will take steps toward the ideal of banning all foods—people are 134 times more likely to be killed by choking than by dog attack.

Then there is the other half of the dog, so to speak: the sedentary lifestyle. Why don’t people exercise more? Lack of time? Doubtful. Americans watch more than four hours of TV a day. Are they lazy? No. If that were the case, then people would not line up in the wee hours of the morning every Black Friday, then knock people over to get the status symbols that prove how important they are to neighbors and show family members how much they are loved.

The problem is furniture. I'm talking about seating and beds in particular. These monstrosities, many of which have four legs (sound familiar?), force people off their feet, thereby causing obesity.

Then there are the more overt furniture attacks. Furniture has been known to kill with staggering ferocity. For instance, falls involving furniture kill many more Americans every year than dogs do, and people are much more likely to be accidentally strangled or suffocated in bed than they are to meet their demise by dog attack.

When all chairs, tables, couches, and beds are banished, lives will be saved, and Moronvia Heights will be held up as a pillar of community safety.

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Another predator prowls the streets of Moronvia Heights. There are some who argue that this beast serves a purpose, but they are sorely mistaken. Motor vehicles are more than one thousand times more likely to kill a person than dogs are, yet we let these four-wheeled monstrosities run rampant in our neighborhood.

Think about all the lives that have been cut short in automobile accidents, and the reasons people incorrectly attribute to them: texting, speeding, fatigue, talking on the phone, driving under the influence. The true problem is the automobile. The car, like the pit bull, is a killing machine that, to pull a gem from your superb lexicon, "poses a major threat to our peaceful way of life."

Again, many have argued that the owners of pit bulls, not the dogs themselves, are to blame for the attacks that kill 0.1% as many Americans as automobiles do. Mayor Goobrane, I think you and I can agree that's utter nonsense. Similarly, I'm tired of the misinformed blaming accidents on drunk or distracted drivers, when in actuality it's the cars and trucks that are to

blame. Vehicles are hardwired to kill. If there are no automobiles, then there will be no automobile accidents.

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In the spirit of preservation, let's take the weapons ban one step further. Since "idle hands are the devil's workshop," let's rid ourselves of that workshop by banning hands in Moronvia Heights.

Squeeze. Pull. Punch. Pinch. Hit. Slap. Smack. Shoot. Stab. Smash. Crush. At the foundation of all these violent actions are hands. If we ban hands, people will be unable to engage in any of these activities and unable to operate the majority of potential weapons that are not banned. Banning hands has additional benefits. For instance, people won't eat as fast, and they'll be less inclined to play sports.

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Another pit bull lurks within the cupboards and vanities of most Moronvia Heights homes. Its modes of attack vary: misprescriptions, overdoses, addictions, side effects. Now some people believe that medications can be good, but you never know when one's going to "get off its leash" and make its way into the wrong hands. Well, not hands, if we pass the previous ban proposal.

I've heard stories purporting that medication can reduce the risk of stroke, fight cancer, reduce cholesterol and blood pressure, and many other claims, just as you may have heard stories of pit bulls that save families from fires, aid the fallen, sniff out drugs for customs agents, visit schools to support positive pet ownership, and assist with therapy. All nonsense!

Nearly two hundred Americans die from drug overdoses (mostly prescription) in the U.S. every day. Thus, people are 1,800 times more likely to meet death in a medicine bottle than in a dog's jaws.

I therefore call for an immediate ban on all medications.

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When we think of dangerous spiders, we usually imagine Africa, South America, and other exotic locales, but I'd like to introduce a place whose spiders are just as malicious: Moronvia Heights. I'm sure that you'll remember that terrible incident two years ago when poor Mrs. Rocksenhead reached for a spider while vacuuming at the top of her staircase.

That spider was just as malevolent, if not more so, than the villain who pushes the harmless old lady down the stairs.

Regarding the pit bull ban, you said, "A single incident, no matter how rare, that threatens our community, should be addressed." Therefore, it only makes sense that we ban spiders as well.

We can also pay our respects to Mrs. Rocksenhead by banning stairs—people are more than three hundred times more likely to die by falling down stairs than they are by dog attack.

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Last year, we Moronvians lost the esteemed Maestro Silverberg, conductor of the electrifying Moronvia Heights Orchestra. His senseless death could have been avoided if we simply banned the abomination responsible for it. Never mind that the maestro climbed a tree to better observe the sunset, and then, in the midst of inspiration, touched his metal conductor's baton to the power lines.

The real cause of the problem, the pit bull if you will, was electricity. Each year, almost five times as many people fall prey to electricity than to dogs of any breed. Moronvians are twice as likely to get killed by consumer products, like power tools and lighting equipment, than they are by dog attacks.

Therefore, I ask, in Maestro Silverberg's memory, that we ban electricity.

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Electricity is but a tooth in the massive and unrelenting set of jaws known as the home. Think of all the beloved Moronvia Heights residents that have been ripped away from us by homes, which harbor a plethora of weapons:

- Bathtubs: nine times more likely than dogs to kill a person
- Ladders/scaffolding (falls from): eight times more likely than dogs to kill a person
- Swimming pools: ten times more likely than dogs to kill a person
- Beds (strangulation): eight times more likely than dogs to kill a person
- Falls involving furniture: 17 times more likely than dogs to kill a person
- Stairs: 308 times more likely than dogs to kill a person

These are just a few of those, to quote you yet again, "dangerous and harmful creatures that need to be eliminated from our community." Homes even house pit bulls!

Then there are the rarer, but much more vicious brethren of the home: the hospital and its henchman, the senior living facility. I would venture to say that this trio of terror was responsible for the deaths of more than ninety percent of the Moronvians who perished last year. Let us, therefore, ban these pit bulls in bricks, glass, and sheet siding from our community!

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One of the so-called leading causes of death in this community and across America is hypertension. Healthcare professionals would have us believe that we have the ability to reduce our stress, that a healthier lifestyle will do the trick, but that places the blame on the victim. It's

just as absurd as this contention that people, rather than buildings themselves, are responsible for the falls that kill more than eight times as many Americans each year as dogs do, or that pit bull owners who've abused their dogs and trained them to be aggressive are responsible for pit bull attacks. No, it's the buildings . . . and it's the pit bulls.

We can reduce stress by banning the three most barbaric attackers of tranquility: finances, sex, and work. This ferocious triumvirate has been at the helm of thousands of deaths in Moronvia Heights.

Additionally, we are 78 times more likely to die by falling than we are by dog attack. Therefore, we should also ban heights. Thus, Moronvia Heights becomes Moronvia.

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Another way that we can "ensure for our citizens the most peaceful living environment" is by banning all elements. Some people claim that fire is warm and comforting. I think it's scorching and life-threatening. If fire kills someone every 144 minutes, while dogs kill someone every 13,476 minutes, then fire is a much more severe threat. Think of it: for every one person that dies by dog attack, 93 die by fire.

Remember the Wood family tragedy in the eighties? Never mind that Dryden stored his hay and gasoline in his furnace room. That fire came out of the blue (which should also be banned so that nothing bad can come out of it and we never have to feel that way). Now I know that banning homes will begin to address this issue, but you can never be sure. Fire has no place in this community.

Earth is another deadly element that we must ban. Sure, we use it to grow crops, but crops lead to pesticides, and pesticides kill. Also, a hundred percent of the deaths in Moronvia

Heights last year occurred on the ground. So if there is no earth, there is no ground. And if there is no ground, it cannot kill any more Moronvians.

The blame for the leading cause of accidental death among young children goes to water. Each year, drowning claims one hundred times as many lives in America as all dogs do. Consider water's many methods. One person sees it as a means to take a relaxing bubble bath. I see it as the instigator of drowning or electrocution. Another person sees it as a refreshment on a hot afternoon. I see it as a conduit to overdosing. Moreover, ice is composed of water, and consider how much the accident fatality rate escalates when ice covers the road. Therefore, we should ban all water from Moronvia Heights.

The fourth element remains the worst. Like many pit bull owners, some claim that they couldn't imagine their lives without it, but let's be realistic: air is a brutal beast biologically predisposed to kill. It carries the sicknesses that kill our elderly. It feeds the fires that burn our houses. It carries the oxygen that allows those dangerous hearts to keep beating. And worst of all, air allows pit bulls to thrive.

I realize, Mayor Goobrane, that banning the elements might meet resistance from the unenlightened, and may require some lifestyle changes, but if we truly want to eliminate all potential threats, then we're going to have to stand united against these fiends.

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Even if we eliminate all homes from our tree-lined streets, another highly aggressive predator will continue to target our citizens. It hides, it lurks, and then it attacks with the ferocity of the pit bull.

Last year, this monstrosity assailed sweet Mrs. Kadiver, who was merely sitting on her couch. Mayor Goobrane, if people can't feel safe in their own neighborhoods, where can they feel safe?

I'm talking about age. For years, our residents have suffered its torments, while those of us capable of doing something have merely stood by. In-depth research reveals that the overwhelming majority of Moronvians get older. Thus, age needs to be banned.

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Another problem that has affected many U.S. citizens, especially those in warmer climates, is skin cancer, which claims nearly 350 times as many lives as dogs do each year.

Fortunately, the media and the workplace have taught women that they must be "hot" to succeed. However, if they spend too much time out in the sun in their quest to achieve the perfect tan, women could develop skin cancer.

Moronvians have long prided ourselves on our influential nature and on our social outreach efforts. Therefore, I propose that we start a petition to ban the sun. When we get that ban passed, perhaps other regions will follow in our footsteps.

Think of it: if we prohibit the sun from shining on Moronvia Heights, women can be outside in their bathing suits as long as they'd like, without the risk of being mauled by UV rays. Moreover, they will be able to spend their hard-earned dollars on more important things, like makeup, clothing, and purses, rather than on expensive lotions to absorb the sun's predatory rays.

Ban the sun, I say, and illuminate the people!

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There is yet another abomination that is just as uncontrollable and prone to violent attacks as the pit bull. I hold this brute responsible for some of the most prominent contributors of death

(e.g., heart disease, cancer, stroke). We've wasted too much time ascribing the ultimate blame to fatty foods, sedentary lifestyles, genes, and a host of other scapegoats.

If the citizens of Moronvia Heights can unite to ban bodies and their contents, the death rate will plummet. Think about all the claws and teeth that the body uses to attack: kidneys, livers, colons, bones, and the worst transgressors, brains and hearts. Additionally, if we ban bodies, we will never again have to read a headline about someone being attacked by a pit bull, because neither those vicious creatures nor we will have bodies.

Moreover, elimination of bodies would mean elimination of dietary diseases such as diabetes and heart disease. We could lift our ban on healthy foods so that people can eat as much as their hearts—maybe not their actual hearts, since bodies will be banned—desire. Chips, muffins, cheeseburgers, milkshakes, beer, fried foods, chocolate. Bring it on!

Bodies are involved in one hundred percent of deaths in the U.S. each year. And here is an often overlooked fact: we all have bodies.

The true cause of cancer is the body and its many organs. Lack of exercise, cheeseburgers, genes, and stress are not responsible for heart attacks—hearts are! We are Moronvia Heights, and we must ban bodies!

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Mayor Goobrane, I have covered a variety of threats that we must address. However, there remains one aggressor so brutal and so vile that it kills more people in our community (and the world over) than anything else. And frankly, I'm quite shocked that nobody has done anything about it.

Stroke? No. Heart disease? Guess again. There is another creature so deadly that scientists and researchers leave it off the charts, mainly because every one of them has dealt with this diabolical nuisance, this harbinger of doom—the mother!

All mothers are murderers. Think about it: mothers give birth to a child, and in so doing, kill him or her. One thing that fatality statistics never point out is that every person who dies has a mother. You referred to the pit bull as “aggressive and dangerous.” Cannot such names also be applied to those who tear down children who are not their own, who use photos of their offspring to maul social media channels, who knock over others to get the latest toy or gadget, or who even rationalize their children’s poor behavior? How many times have we heard something like this: “The reason Timmy’s failing is that he’s not challenged by the material. He’s much smarter than the other kids.”

Mothers cause cancer. Mothers cause strokes. Mothers cause AIDS, heart disease, suicides, and murders. Let us work together to keep these most treacherous predators off the streets of our community.

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As I approach the conclusion of this call to action, I’d like to cautiously return to the worst chapter in modern history: the Holocaust.

One question that often comes up is, “Could we ever allow something like that to happen again?” The answer involves identifying and eliminating the true cause of death among the millions who perished. Scholars have cited a host of causes: racism/hatred, a charismatic leader, manipulation, even economic instability.

Though I appreciate the scholarship associated with these premises, I have to conclude that they are sorely mistaken, for they have misidentified the true cause—the pit bull, you could

say—behind the tragedy. The source of the greatest tragedy the world has ever seen is the canister. Just as pit bulls contain the jaws and teeth that destroy, canisters held the Zyklon B tablets that the Nazis used in their gas chambers. If we ban canisters and inspire the world to follow suit, an atrocity like the Holocaust will never again scour the face of this earth.

Mayor Goobrane, we never know when a canister might give someone the wrong idea. Canisters are responsible for the untimely death of millions. To ensure that Moronvia Heights is committed to never again even considering such a stain, we must ban canisters. This also gives Moronvia Heights the opportunity to emerge as an international leader in the fight for human rights.

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Though I understand the thought process behind our recent plastic grocery bag ban, I learned that, had that ban not been imposed, Tommy Dumphuk would still be alive today. The official police report states that when he lost control on the way home from the grocery store, Tommy was texting, eating chicken nuggets (with barbeque dipping sauce), talking on the phone, smoking pot, drinking whiskey, high on meth, and applying lip gloss.

Now I understand that applying lip gloss and engaging in some of those other activities aren't the smartest things to do while driving, but what isn't in that report is that Tommy's container of ice cream had begun to leak in the seat next to him. Since the ice cream was in a paper rather than a plastic bag (due to the ban), it was getting all over the seat. So naturally, Tommy reached over to solve the problem. That's when he lost control.

Now, plastic grocery bags do take a thousand years to degrade, constitute one of the most common types of ocean refuse, retain toxicity even after they break down, and kill by asphyxiation thousands of animals every year. However, these are all minor compared to the

value of a human life. We are not perfect, and sometimes we make mistakes. Therefore, in respect to Tommy Dumphuk, I call for an immediate ban on the plastic grocery bag ban.

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Mayor Goobrane, thank you again for your tireless efforts to keep the residents of Moronvia Heights “safe and thriving.”

I hope to meet with you soon to discuss my proposals. We can launch our campaign with a few immediate bans:

- Hornets, wasps, bees: more than two times more likely than dogs to kill a person
- Deer: more than three times more likely than dogs to kill a person
- Fire: 90 times more likely than dogs to kill a person
- Agricultural vehicles: 10 times more likely than dogs to kill a person
- Natural heat: 15 times more likely than dogs to kill a person
- Machinery: 20 times more likely than dogs to kill a person
- Natural cold: 34 times more likely than dogs to kill a person
- Alcohol (poisoning): 56 times more likely than dogs to kill a person

Sincerely,

Thomas Sageslush, Vice President  
Concerned Residents Against Pit Bulls

P.S. If even one of the proposed bans fails to save a life, I propose to ban myself.

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**AUTHOR’S NOTE:**

*Fleas on the Dog. Isn’t this an e-zine about dogs? That’s why I submitted this story. Kidding.*

*Many people think some dog breeds, particularly pit bulls, are monsters. The true monsters are on the other end of the leash. This satirical work comments on the absurdity of breed-specific bans. My research revealed the infrequency of fatal dog attacks compared to so many other*

*accidental causes of death. The piece combines that research, typical language for those who support pit bull bans, and my penchant for over-the-top scenarios. The device of a letter, written by a resident of Moronvia Heights to the mayor of that village, enabled me to jump on the ban bandwagon and use similar logic to propose increasingly ridiculous bans.*

*My influences range from Edward Lee (king of splatterpunk), Jeff Strand (king of horror comedy), and Carlton Mellick III (king of bizarro) to unblack metal (Christian death metal music) and my own dog Phlegmpus Bilesnot, who happens to be a pit bull.*

*Stylistic/literary influences*

<https://www.petcoach.co/article/7-reasons-why-breed-specific-bans-don-t-work/>

**AUTHOR BIO:** Douglas J. Ogurek, the pseudonymous and highly unprofessional founder of the unsplatterpunk subgenre, thinks he's changing the world . . . one intestine at a time. Unsplatterpunk uses splatterpunk conventions (i.e., controversial/gory/gross/violent subject matter) to deliver a positive message. Ogurek guest-edited the wildly unpopular UNSPLATTERPUNK! trilogy, published by Theaker's Quarterly Fiction. These anthologies are unavailable at your library and despised by your mother. Ogurek reviews films and fiction at that same magazine.

Publications have rejected Ogurek's work more than 1,500 times. However, *The Paris Review*, considered one of the world's leading literary journals, thanked him for submitting a manuscript in one (form) letter. Another highly respected journal, *The Yale Review*, stated, "We want to thank you for your kindness in letting us see your work." Thus, Ogurek is also a kind author. More at [www.douglasjogurek.weebly.com](http://www.douglasjogurek.weebly.com). Twitter: @unsplatter