

ONTARIO ADVOCATES' RESPONSE TO BSL

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



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

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Much love, Alix

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CHAPTER 1 - INTRODUCTION; HISTORY OF ONTARIO'S BSL

On October 26, 2004, the Ontario Liberal Government introduced Bill 132 amending the Ontario Dog Owners' Liability Act (DOLA). DOLA passed in the Legislative Assembly as the "Public Safety Related to Dogs Statute Law Amendment Act", on March 1, 2005. This new legislation banned "pit bull" type dogs in Ontario making it an offence to enter the province with any dog deemed to be a "pit bull" type, or even have similar characteristics to the 3 banned breeds of dogs, which are American Staffordshire Terriers, American Pitbull Terriers, and Staffordshire Bull Terriers. Heavy restrictions of grandfathered "pit bull" type dogs remaining in the province included, but were not limited to, mandatory sterilization, muzzle orders, and be walked on a leash of a maximum of 1.8 meters long. The ban officially went into effect on August 29, 2005, and remains in effect to this day.¹²

Statistics on Canadian fatal dog attacks have been kept since 1962³. During this period, there has been seventy-three dog related fatalities recorded across Canada, averaging less than 1.2 fatalities per year. Fifty-four of those deaths were children under the age of 10. Out of those fifty-four child fatalities, there is not one confirmed documented fatality from any of the banned breeds of dog targeted under Ontario's breed specific legislation (BSL). Only **ONE** dog bite related fatality in Canada is a **confirmed** American Staffordshire Terrier.⁴

Multiple private members bills were introduced to the Ontario Legislation by Cheri Di Novo, a former NDP MPP. On November 18, 2009 Bill 222 was presented, however even though it passed first reading it died soon after when then Premier Dalton McGuinty prorogued parliament on March 4, 2010. On May 10, 2010 Hershey's Bill 60 was presented, once again in an attempt to repeal the breed specific portion of DOLA. This bill also passed first reading but Premier McGuinty prorogued parliament again, this time calling for an election. The Liberals were re-elected and officially formed a minority government. On November 30, 2011 Bill 16, a Tri-Party private members bill, was introduced. This time the bill was supported by members of all three sitting parties – the Progressive Conservative Party, the New Democratic Party, and even the Liberals. To the delight of Anti-BSL advocates in Ontario, this bill passed first AND second reading on February 23, 2012, and with overwhelming support the breed specific portions were voted out of the legislation⁵. On May 9th, Bill 16 was ordered for third reading. AGAIN, Premier McGuinty prorogued. He then resigned as leader of the Liberal Party, and with his resignation, Bill 16 died on the order table. This trend continued with Bill 112 in October of 2013, Bill 40 in October of 2016, and Bill 147 in November of 2019.

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

Regardless of the type of dog listed in the official statistics for Canadian dog bite related fatalities, two facts remain crucial. First, breed identification is ALWAYS suspect and is very rarely reliable. Second, even if breed identification was accurate and sound, the breed and type of dog will always remain less important than the circumstances surrounding the incident.⁶

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

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

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

² Note that the ban was officially approved on August 29th, but was not in FULL EFFECT until November 29th, 2005

³ Please see [Annex 4: Canada's Fatal Dog Bites: 1962 - Present](#)

⁴ Note that in the case of 7 year old Sharon Reynolds, there was never 100% conclusive evidence of whether or not her death was caused by stab wounds by her mother (who went to prison for the death of her daughter) or if they were caused by a dog, labeled as a "pit bull".

⁵ Please see [Annex 5: Results of the vote for Bill 16 in 2012](#)

⁶ <http://www.chicobandido.com/dbrf-canada/>

CHAPTER 2 - THE FACTS VS THE MYTHS

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

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

- The term “pit bull” is a generic grouping of multiple types of bully breed dogs who have similar characteristics, including short fur, a strong muscular build, and a square shaped head. The three pure breeds of dogs included in the Ontario Dog Owners’ Liability Act under the term “pit bull” are American Staffordshire Terriers, Staffordshire Bull Terriers, and American Pit Bull Terriers (the only accurate use of the term “pit bull”). Unfortunately, due to physical characteristics similar in nature to those mentioned above, the American Bully, American Bulldog, Bull Mastiff, Dogo Argentino, Presa Canario, Cane Corso, and even Labrador Retrievers to name but a few have been targeted under DOLA. Having a description for “pit bull” that is so broad unfortunately means a possibility for dogs with no lineage to any of the above-mentioned breeds to be mistakenly included under the umbrella term. It is important to note that in order for a dog to be identified as a pure breed, there must be official documents from an accredited and recognized kennel club available to prove so.⁷ This does not include DNA testing, which is not a reliable source for accurate identification of a dog’s breed.⁸
- As an example to the above statements, the 3 dogs listed below have no lineage to any of the dogs named in DOLA, however due to the clause stating that any dog with similar characteristics are also prohibited (clause e), they are often targeted and identified as “pit bulls” by animal control, and reported as such in the media.



Boxer/Lab cross



Hound/Retriever cross



Mastiff/Bulldog cross

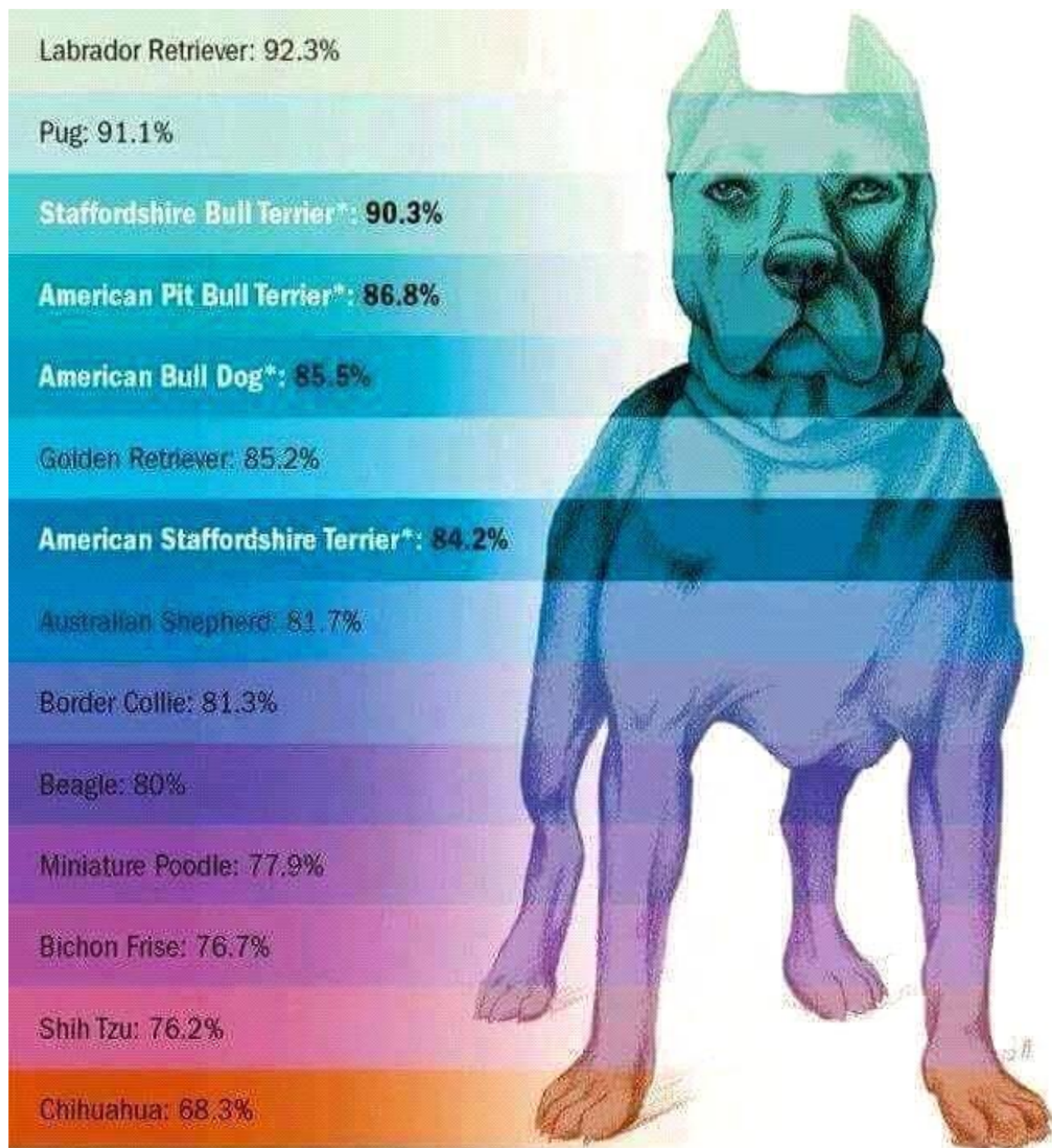
2. “Pit bull” type dogs, or dogs with similar characteristics, are “inherently dangerous” or they are “born mean”

- There is no one breed that exists as a whole that is born inherently bad or evil, the same as no one race or grouping of humans is inherently cruel. Dogs rely on humans to guide and teach them right from wrong, and their temperaments are often a product of their environment and a learned behavior. In fact, according to Professor Agustin Fuentes, head of the anthropology department at the University of Notre Dame, *“there is nothing in the genetic sequences that influences the brains of any dogs that makes them more aggressive or unpredictable than any other dog of any breed”*. Aggressive tendencies in dogs are almost always a learned behavioral trait.

⁷ <http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/PDF/A-11.2.pdf>

⁸ Note that results from different DNA companies will return with different results for the same dog more than 50% of the time.

- In temperament testing performed by the American Temperament Test Society, “pit bull” type dogs consistently rank in the top 10 every year, and are by far the most tested types of dogs:



* Pit bull designation

Source: American Temperament Test Society, Inc.

2015 American Temperament Testing Results

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

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

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

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

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

- Like humans, dogs have to be taught a behavior, be it good or bad. Most of the way a dog behaves has to do with their upbringing, including socialization from an early age, responsible ownership, appropriate training, and being treated with love and respect. In the case of “pit bull” type dogs, a type of dog that was originally created to be especially gentle with people, virtually every instance of a “pit bull” type dog who display any type of animal or human aggression are victims of one or more of the following: poor breeding practices, lack of training, and/or irresponsible ownership.
- Further to the above quote, Professor Fuentes also states: *“Despite popular notions that certain genes or genetic elements control or regulate the appearance and intensity of aggressive behaviors, there is no evidence for any one-to-one genetic controls, nor is there evidence for certain molecules or systems in the body that predetermine aggressive outcomes. There is no gene or system in the body that can be identified as ‘for aggression’. While it appears clear that genetic variation in neurotransmitters and hormones can be involved in the ways in which we express aggressive behavior, there is no direct or causal link. Our genes cannot make us aggressive.”*
- There is no gene that exists within DNA that predetermines aggression. The part of the brain associated with aggression is controlled by chemical levels that rise and fall as a reaction to external factors. For example, a

bad mood is not hereditary, it has to do with different situations that trigger an emotion in one particular circumstance. There is **no** scientific evidence that “pit bull” type dogs are born with higher levels of these chemicals than other breeds. It is important to note that the most aggressive dogs can have perfectly tempered puppies. There is no recipe available to breed an “aggressive dog”. The social and physical environments are always the main factors.⁹¹⁰¹¹

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

- According to Dr. I Lehr Brisbin of the University of Georgia:

*“In the studies which have been conducted of the structure of the skulls, mandibles and teeth of “pit bull” type dogs show that, in proportion to their size, their jaw structure and thus its inferred functional morphology, is no different than that of any breed of dog. There is absolutely no evidence for the existence of any kind of ‘locking mechanism’ unique to the structure of the jaw and/or teeth of the American Pit Bull Terrier. It has, in fact, been scientifically proven that it is impossible to have a locking jaw in any breed of dog, regardless of the size and structure”.*¹²

- The strength of a “pit bull” type dog’s jaw is grossly exaggerated by multiple sources. Some people have gone so far as to state that the jaw pressure of a shark is less than that of a “pit bull” type dog. That is scientifically proven as inaccurate, as the average jaw pressure of a bull shark is 1250 pounds per square inch (psi), and a great white shark is on average 669 psi. Kangal Dogs (a member of the Mastiff breed) have the strongest jaw pressure recorded in domestic dogs, averaging at an approximate measure of 743 psi. Other large breeds of dogs include English Mastiffs, who come in at 552 psi, Dogo Argentinos, who come in at 500 psi, Rottweilers at 328 psi, German Shepherds at 238 psi, and American Pit Bull Terriers at 235 psi. For reference, the average human adult male has a 150 psi bite.¹³

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

- Media outlets of all kinds are 85% more likely to publish a dog related story where the term “pit bull” can be used in the headline than a story involving dogs of any other breed.¹⁴ Unfortunately, media and law enforcement are often quick to assume the lineage of the dog using visual identification alone without any further gathering of facts or evidence. This results not only in false labeling and officially documents the dog as a “pit bull”, but also augments public perception that “pit bull” type dogs are involved in negative incidents more often than other types of dogs. This action further damages the reputation of dogs typed as “pit bulls” and creates a false sense of fear in the unsuspecting, and oftentimes misinformed, general public. It is a proven fact that having the catch phrase “pit bull” included in media reporting will generate a story that will be reported on an average of 200 times, however in cases where the term cannot be used, the incident in question is rarely reported on, if at all. On the rare occasions that an incident involving a dog that has not been described as a “pit bull”, the breed of dog is almost never mentioned in the headlines, and seldom even referred to in the report itself.
- This is not to say that all media reports are negative when it comes to a “pit bull”. There are MANY media outlets who are interested in the facts and the truth, and they report accurate stories and information on cases involving dogs who are typed or labeled as “pit bulls”. It is a common trend in Ontario that many media reporters are very much opposed to BSL, and wish to have it removed from the provincial legislation. They do not support this legalized discrimination any more than Anti-BSL advocates do, and make their position clear as to how they feel about the law remaining in place.

⁹ http://www.salon.com/2012/05/28/is_aggression_genetic/

¹⁰ <https://positively.com/victorias-blog/the-truth-about-pit-bulls/>

¹¹ <https://animalfarmfoundation.org/2013/10/09/a-closer-look-at-all-dogs-are-individuals-infographic/>

¹² http://www.dogwatch.net/myths/lock_jaw.html

¹³ <https://www.insidedogsworld.com/dog-bite-explained-top-20-dogs-with-the-strongest-bite-force/>

¹⁴ <http://www.defendingdog.com/defending-dogs-lives-from-infections/>

- The following screen shot comes from Denver, who had one of the longest standing BSL regulations in North America, as well as one of the highest bites per capita in the United States:¹⁵

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

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

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

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

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

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

¹⁵ Denver repealed their breed specific language in November of 2020 through the popular vote. They won the popular vote by a landslide. While there are still restrictions in Denver, “pit bulls” are no longer banned in the city. See [here](#) for more details on the Denver repeal.

6. All dogs share over 99% identical DNA



Ontario Coalition Against BSL

THE TOP 28 BREEDS COMMONLY LABELED “PIT BULLS”



American Bulldog



Cane Corso



Bull Terrier



Boxer



Dogo Argentino



Neapolitan Mastiff



Bullmastiff



Olde English Bulldog



Alapaha Blue Blood Bulldog



Rottweiler



Black Mouth Cur



Vizsla



Dogue de Bordeaux



Ambulneo Mastiff



Greater Swiss Mountain Dog



Patterdale Terrier



Rhodesian Ridgeback



Presa Canario



Boerboel



Fila Brasileiro



English Mastiff



American Bully**



Bulldog



Australian Bulldog



French Bulldog



Boston Terrier



Staffordshire Bull Terrier*



American Staffordshire Terrier*

* Note that both the American Staffordshire Terrier and the Staffordshire Bull Terrier are banned breeds in Ontario's DOLA, however they are not “pit bulls”.

** Note that there are 4 sizes of American Bully (micro, pocket, standard, extra large) however they are the same breed.

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

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

Michael Vick and the “Vickory Dogs”¹⁶

- In 2007, Michael Vick, an NFL player, was tried and convicted for his heinous role in funding and organizing a dog fighting operation. These dogs were tortured, forced to fight, beaten, abused, and severely neglected. Yet once rescued, 48 of the 51 dogs (94.1%) were completely rehabilitated and placed in loving families or no kill animal sanctuaries to live out their lives in peace and safety. Not one of the dogs that were rehabilitated ever had an incident reported of aggression of any kind, and were successfully used in a multitude of ways from family pets to therapy dogs. To the disgust of animal advocates around the world, Vick was not charged for his direct involvement in the animal cruelty, rather was solely charged for financing the operation.¹⁷
- Of the 3 dogs that were unable to be rehabilitated, two died due to their extreme injuries while in veterinary care, and one was humanely euthanized by the ASPCA as she was sadly deemed as too emotionally and physically damaged to be rehabilitated.¹⁸
- It was very apparent to rescuers that the biggest issue with these dogs, as with most dogs used for fighting, was fear, not aggression. However, even after all the suffering and abuse they had endured in their short lives, they quickly learned to trust again and showed their true colors: loyal, loving and incredibly forgiving. Several Vickory Dogs went on to become registered service dogs.
- Sadly the Vickory dogs have all passed, as their life span reached the end. These dogs were loved by many, and people across the world watched them grow. They served as true “ambassadors to the breed”.¹⁹
- There is a documentary available on Netflix that chronicles the lives of these dogs, called “The Champions”. You can find the link here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z-KoEIPTRMQ>

The “Chatham 21” Dogs

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

¹⁶ <https://nypost.com/2017/07/08/how-michael-vicks-pit-bulls-changed-animal-rescue-forever/>

¹⁷ It is important to note that prior to being adopted out, each dog was required to become certified as a Certified Canine Good Citizen by the American Kennel Club <https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/training/training-for-the-canine-good-citizen-test/>

¹⁸ <https://www.thedodo.com/michael-vick-dogs-the-champions-1652308280.html>

¹⁹ http://www.huffingtonpost.com/jacqueline-johnson/giving-michael-vicks-former-dogs-a-fighting-chance-changed-the-face-of-animal-welfare_b_7020362.html

- For the 21 dogs remaining in OSPCA custody (who became known as “the Chatham 21”) originally deemed to be “unfit for rehabilitation” because of Ontario’s BSL, they were finally released in May of 2017 to the amazing people with Dog Tales and subsequently taken to the Florida-based rescues [Dogs Playing for Life](#), and [Pit Sisters](#). All of the dogs sent to Florida demonstrated the resilience of dogs who suffered the most severe form of neglect and abuse. The signs were there: they were just “normal dogs” who were nothing more than victims of disgusting animal cruelty.
- To name but a few stories of the dogs from the “Chatham 21”, commonly now referred to on social media as the “#OntarioRescuedDogs” are as follows:



Dallas:

Dallas is a now retired narcotics detection K9 who served with the police department of Honaker VA. Professionally trained by Throw Away Dogs Project, the agency in Philadelphia whose mission is to “repurpose, train, and relocate ‘unique’ dogs to positively impact our communities” who took Dallas into their program. Once trained, he became not only a loving member of his family with lots of retired K9 siblings to play with at home, he is also a vital part of his community and helped keep narcotics off the streets.

Cuddles:

Cuddles was sent to the rescue Pit Sisters in Florida for rehabilitation, and was put in the organization’s TAILS (Teaching Animals and Inmates Life Skills) prison program. There, Cuddles worked with an inmate to learn basic obedience and received much needed socialization. Cuddles responded so well to the program and the individual attention it provided her that she graduated with a PhD from The Association of Professional Dog Trainers (APDT), the highest honor APDT offers. She also earned a AKC Canine Good Citizen certification. Cuddles is now an emotional support dog for a Navy Vet, and retired Fire Fighter in New York.



Nibbles:

Nibbles, another successful product of Throw Away Dogs Project, is another fully trained narcotics detection K9 who is working with the Craven County Sheriff’s Department in New Bern, North Carolina with his handler/partner Corporal McCaw. Nibbles has had so much success in his new-found career that he has earned top K9 of the month on a multitude of occasions. He is a valued member of his department and in integral part of his family. He demonstrates on a daily basis that even with the worst beginnings in life, “pit bulls” are resilient to human cruelty and their personalities shine.

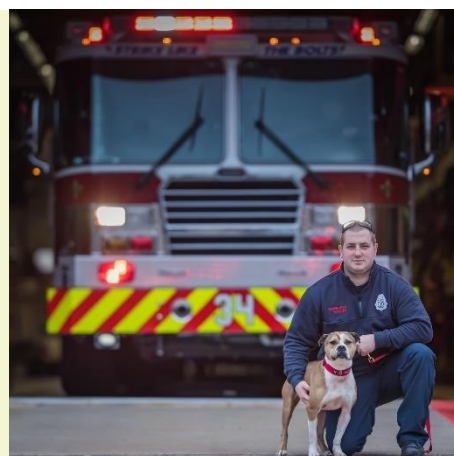


Maurice:

After his training and rehabilitation was completed at Dogs Playing for Life in Florida, Maurice found his way to Los Angeles. It was there that, at an open adoption event, he met his new mom, Sarah. Sarah, who had no intention of adopting a dog that day, came across Maurice and instantaneously fell in love. To this day, he lives a very happy life stealing treats and hogging the bed. Maurice is an integral part of his family, and has made their family whole.

Hansel:

Hansel is the first arson detection “pit bull” to ever work in the USA. He and partner, Firefighter Tyler Van Leer, work for the Millville Fire Department in New Jersey. Hansel is fully trained to detect 14 different ignitable liquid odors and enhances the safety of his community every single day. Hansel, yet another product of Throw Away Dogs Project, is so successful in his position as an arson detection K9 that he was honored by the CW Presentation that showcased the top 10 dogs in the entire USA in 2020. Hansel was number 4, much to the delight of his family, the fire department, and all those who followed his story.



**note that all dogs trained for law enforcement positions were trained by Throw Away Dogs Project.²⁰*

In the case of just these few examples, the question that needs to be asked is this: Why were these dogs deemed to be a dangerous menace to society in Ontario, slated for euthanasia due to human failure, and in another jurisdiction, incredibly loving dogs deemed as deserving of a chance to be rehabilitated and make a difference to their families and communities? Does this mean that some organizations and municipalities are basing their decisions on breed prejudice alone and not on the actual behavior of the dogs themselves? Is it possible that, due to public misconceptions, Ontario is now convinced that “fear” and “aggression” are one and the same? The fact that the Vicktory and the Chatham dogs have gone on to live normal lives in loving homes, not to mention that many of them have enhanced public safety (which is exactly what BSL fails to do) should make even the biggest skeptic question the morals and logic behind such a cruel and unjust law.

Law Enforcement using “Pit Bull” type dogs as department K9’s

There are more and more police and fire departments throughout the United States who are using rescued “pit bull” type dogs from shelters as their K9 officers. This is proving to not only be a way to help promote a positive image for an extremely misunderstood type of dog, but also is helping reduce the ever-growing number of dogs in need in local shelters. “Pit bull” type dogs are being successfully used with police forces to detect narcotics, bombs, and tracking missing persons/criminals on the run, and used in fire departments to detect ignitable liquids. They are not typically used to “attack” those who are being pursued, as it has been reported that it is very difficult to actually get them to be aggressive towards people.^{21,22}

Using rescued “pit bull” type dogs saves tens of thousands of dollars of tax payer money as well. For example, a pure breed German Shepherd police dog can cost up to \$15,000.00 to purchase and train. A rescued “pit bull”

²⁰ <https://throwawaydogsproject.com/>

²¹ <http://dogtime.com/trending/34961-police-departments-turn-rescue-pit-bulls-new-k9-units>

²² <http://www.lifewithdogs.tv/2016/02/pit-bulls-are-the-new-breed-of-police-dogs/>

type dog is often less than \$300.00 to adopt, and have been in general deemed extremely easy to train by their K9 training officers due to their natural will and desire to please their owners. Throw Away Dogs Project continues to successfully train misunderstood dogs for positions in law enforcement, and no doubt we will see great things in the near future from more of their amazing dogs.

Another excellent documentary on the true resilience of “pit bull” type dogs is the YouTube video, “Beyond the Myth”.²³ This is one of the most complete documentaries providing evidence of the repercussions of BSL that currently exists.



²³ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_S4-oOR_J-o

CHAPTER 4 - THE COURTNEY TREMPER CASE

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

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

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

For point of reference, let us compare the situation to one that is recognized by the law as homicide: drinking and driving. If you are caught drinking and driving, you are charged with criminal negligence and you are then often sent to prison. Death by a drunk driver is officially a homicide, with a prison sentence of at least 10 years. In this instance, the driver knew of the danger, ignored it, and chose a dangerous and reckless behavior and action instead. In reference to the Bull Mastiff in question above, the owner knew the history of aggressive behavior, and also was aware his dog was strong and powerful. A responsible owner would have ensured that this dog was closely watched, in a secure enclosure, and **not** provided with the opportunity to cause a potential threat to public safety.

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

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

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

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

The list below is the recommendations that the jury made in the inquest to Courtney Trempe's death. After they expressed their deepest sympathy to the family, and all others involved in the tragedy, the jury recommended the following:^{24*}

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

²⁴ <https://ward9.ca/coroners-jury-recommendations-for-dog-educationlegislation/>

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

- The media (through children's television programming) include programs teaching young children recommended behavior towards the treatment of dogs;
- The media, with each article about a vicious dog attack, print a small informative TIP from a recognized agency relative to the incident (e.g. if approached by a strange dog - stand still, talk, back away slowly);
- All municipalities provide resources for an Education Officer to work in the community, educating both children and adults about responsible pet ownership and the prevention of dog bites;
- Inasmuch as infants and young children are a high-risk category with regard to serious dog bite injury, that the Ontario College of Family Physicians undertakes to educate their members in this matter. Their responsibility would include the education of parents regarding the safeguarding of their children from dog bites and recognizing the danger of leaving children alone with any dog;
- Because veterinarians are well placed to educate dog owners in responsible ownership, we recommend that the Veterinarians Association advise their members to educate dog owners about dog bite prevention, dog behavior, and the benefits of neutering and spaying;
- In order to educate dog owners, the Provincial Government consider the preparation of information regarding selection, training, and responsible dog ownership. This information along with the distribution of the Dog Owner's Liability Act should be distributed by the veterinarians and animal shelters to their clients;²⁵
- A website be designed as a tool for better understanding and education for all dog owners (responsible ownership, government regulations, how to choose your pet, listing of breeders, agencies and associations and teaching children safe behavior around dogs);
- Information about responsible dog ownership be provided with the purchase for dogs from breeders and pet store owners;
- All dog owners be required to post a provincial standard sign indicating that a dog lives on the premises;
- The Provincial Government and other interested agencies and municipalities promote ideas that foster public education like the proposed Dog Bite Prevention Week and that pamphlets be offered on one's rights and responsibilities when it comes to pets;
- All dog acquirers be required to take a course in pet ownership and responsibility; and
- Veterinarians be trained with courses in animal behavior and regularly update themselves in this area with recognized institutions in veterinary medicine and that a recognized questionnaire be developed by the Canadian Association to aid vets in identifying potential problems with dogs or their owners.²⁶

Now for the legislative changes recommended by the jury:

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

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

²⁵ Note that the reference to the Dog Owner's Liability Act in this instance did NOT include breed specifics in the legislation

²⁶ To review this list please visit <http://dogownersrights.com/reference/trempe.htm>

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

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

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

- In 2021 a 17 year old girl was killed on the Thames First Nation Reserve in Middlesex County by a large breed dog, nothing was done.

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

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

- In 1979 a 3-month-old child was killed by a neighbor’s dog (Husky), nothing was done;
- In 1988 a 17-month-old child was killed by a neighbor’s dog (German Shepherd), nothing was done;
- In 1997 a 6-year-old child was killed (breed unknown), nothing was done;
- In 1999 a 2-year-old child was killed (Husky), nothing was done;
- In 2010 a 21-day-old baby was killed (Husky), nothing was done;
- In 2014 a 4-year-old child was killed (Husky), nothing was done;
- In 2016 a 55-year-old woman was killed (Boxer/American Staffordshire Terrier mix), and BSL was instantly tabled and passed shortly after in the city of Montreal²⁷²⁸.

Should we, therefore, assume that the life of a 55-year-old woman was more important than the six Quebec children before her? Or, similar to the knee-jerk reaction of Ontario Liberals in 2004, were there certain Quebec politicians who saw something to gain by this tragedy simply because it implicated a dog who was deemed a “pit bull”?

Similar to the dog who killed Courtney Trempe, the dog involved in the 2016 Quebec incident had a bite history. He had two attacks that were previously reported, which means that this dog should have been dealt with by laws already in place to deal with dangerous dogs. Unlike the Bull Mastiff’s owner in Ontario, this owner, Junior Frontal, had a criminal record for violent crimes and domestic abuse - again not an indication of an unworthy animal owner, but combined with the fact that the dog had attacked twice before, the details paint a picture of a potentially unhealthy situation which has nothing to do with the breed of the dog. It is also worth nothing, similar as to what we saw in the Trempe case, Mr. Frontal was not held criminally responsible for the death of his neighbor, Ms. Christine Vadnais. No charges were laid, and he is free to own another dog of his choosing at any point, which he currently does.

The relevance and comparison of the 2 provinces and the dog related incidents causing fatalities comes in here: In the Trempe inquest, there was no mention of any breed specific recommendations to improve public safety, and NONE of the jury recommendations were taken into consideration when there were amendments made to the DOLA in 2005. A child **died** due to the injuries sustained from a dog with known behavioral issues, and nothing was done. There were, in fact, 12 instances of children being attacked and killed by dogs in Ontario between the years of 1962 and 2022, and in each case, NOTHING WAS DONE.

So in the end, the questions are simple: why is it that in 2004, the life of a Toronto man with serious, but non-fatal injuries caused by a dog who was typed as a “pit bull” caught the attention of the media, and was deemed as more important than the **deaths** of 12 children before him? Why, in the Montreal case, were the dog related fatalities of 6 children by breeds not identified as “pit bull” type dogs, virtually ignored, and nothing was implemented in the City until a 55-year-old woman was attacked and killed by a dog who had a dangerous history, an irresponsible owner, and was labeled as a “pit bull? And maybe most importantly: why were none of the owners not held accountable for the actions of their dogs???

²⁷ Note that the Montreal ban has since been lifted, and while the province of Quebec considered a province wide ban, extensive consultations were conducted and proved that BSL would be ineffective in keeping the population of Quebec safe from dog related incidents.

²⁸ Please see [Annex 4: Canada’s Fatal Dog Bites: 1962 - Present](#) for full detailed list of all dog related fatalities in Canada.

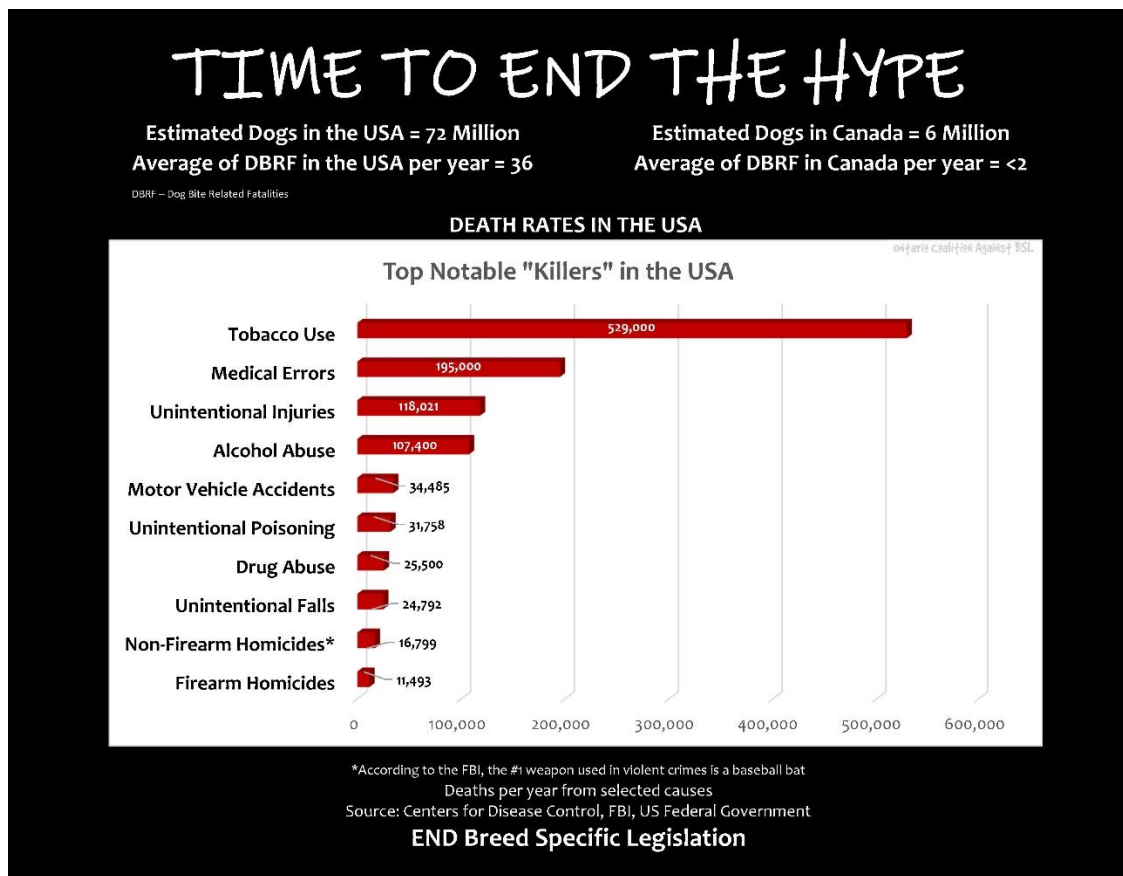
The fact remains this: if there were laws in place to protect the public against dangerous dogs, and NOT target specific breeds of dogs, these tragedies could almost definitely have been avoided. Instead, the government officials in both situations decided to instate new “panic policy” in the form of the ever-ineffective BSL.

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

CHAPTER 5: FEAR MONGERING AND FALSE REPORTING

Unfortunately, there are certain groups and individuals who are anti “pit bull” lobbyists and seek to capitalize on the disproportionate tread some people have toward dogs; especially when it comes to dogs deemed as “pit bulls”. They persist in making grossly exaggerated claims about the severity and nature of “pit bull” attacks versus those of other breeds or types of dogs. They expose victims’ identification, often unknowingly to them, use words such as “gruesome mauling” to instate fear in the public, and use vivid descriptions of victims’ injuries to further exacerbate personal theories and agendas. Generally, this is done using graphic images of dog attacks, almost always involving a child. These images are overly gruesome, and regardless of the situation or the reason for the attack, the dog in question is **always** deemed to be at fault. These claims and visual representations are produced by individuals in special interest groups with no real knowledge of the actual occurrence of the incident, nor do they have the professional experience to properly analyze fatal dog bite injuries. There is rarely a photo of the dog included in their imagery, especially when the true lineage of the dog is in question, or more importantly, when the dog is not closely enough aligned to the physical characteristics in order to be deemed a “pit bull”.

The National Canine Research Council (NCRC) was made aware of these accusations and felt compelled to address these tactics and claims with studies and scientific research. The NCRC investigated and analyzed injuries from every fatal dog attack for which data is available. **It was concluded that no breed of dog has a particular method of attack or inflicts an exclusive type of injury.** Claims that one breed of dog inflicts injuries unlike other breeds or types of dog were determined to have no scientific merit. In comparison to fatal injuries causing death in the US, the NCRC found serious injurious dog bites to be relatively uncommon (however unfortunately do still occur), and dog bite related fatalities are extremely rare.²⁹



²⁹ <https://www.nationalcanineresearchcouncil.com/injurious-dog-bites/dog-bite-related-fatalities>

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

It has been statistically proven, according to caninejournal.com³⁰, one is 200 times more likely to die by taking aspirin and 5 times more likely to be stuck by lighting than to be fatally attacked by a dog. Veterinarians, accredited animal behavior experts, and professional dog trainers, to name but a few experts in the animal behavior profession, all concur that there is **no** scientific evidence a “pit bull” type dog is more dangerous than any other type of dog. Any attempts to say otherwise are simply not true. If law makers were to use only reputable, accredited, peer reviewed sources for information on “pit bull” type dogs, they would find no existing evidence to back up the claims put forward by anti “pit bull” lobbyists, who focus on isolated incidents involving one particular dog, and infer that all dogs similar in nature or appearance will do the same. It is no more logical than focusing on an isolated incident involving a certain race or religion of a human being, and blaming all for same.

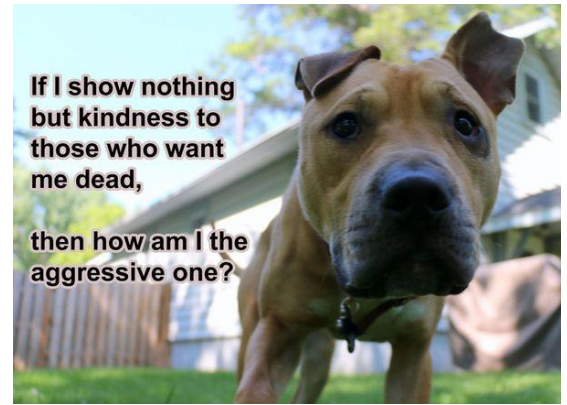
Dog related fatalities are at an extremely low level compared to many other types of fatal injuries. Therefore, it is difficult to comprehend why so much attention is garnered specifically to these incidents when compared to that of other fatalities. The image below clearly proves that the odds of being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

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

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

³⁰ <https://www.caninejournal.com/>

In summary, there are **no** peer reviewed, accredited, or scientific studies that demonstrate any link between a certain breed of dog and fatal dog related incidents. The only statistics that state otherwise come from groups with a very specific and well-known agenda, (e.g. Animals 24/7, dogsbite.org, Daxton's Friends, and National Pit Bull Victims Awareness group to name but a few). Even groups such as the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) have joined forces with the Pro-BSL realms, claiming that "pit bulls" should all be euthanized³¹. The very people who in their name should practice ethical treatment to animals is now fighting to eradicate a breed of dog based on no scientific merit.



Daxton's Friends have gone so far as to state that they will help dispose of neighborhood family pets who have the appearance of a "pit bull". Sick, but true. They actually have an email list available to assist people with this, as demonstrated below. This is just one example from one of these groups of the lengths they will go to further their agenda to eradicate the "pit bull" from the world:



What is factual is that children and the elderly seem to be more at risk when it comes to dog related incidents, which could be alleviated by a responsible adult supervision and/or adequate resources being available for dog owners as well as the general public on dog safety. Responsible ownership laws, with a **strong** emphasis on owner accountability, is key to the prevention of dog bite related incidents and fatalities. It should be the individual owners who are held legally accountable for the behavior of their dogs.³²

³¹ <http://awesomeocean.com/guest-columns/peta-trying-rid-world-pit-bulls/>

³² <https://www.nationalcanineresearchcouncil.com/research-library/dog-bite-related-fatalities-literature-review>

CHAPTER 6: THE EFFECTS OF PANIC POLICY MAKING

Despite the advancement of animal rights and animal welfare in law and ideology, there are three political preconditions that influence the adoption of legislated breed bans:

- First, the supporters of the legislation must adapt to the traditional legal definition of “animals are property”, regardless of the fact that bills such as Quebec’s Bill 54³³ exist declaring animals as sentient beings.
- Second, a breed ban is a form of policy making that is often more of a symbolic reaction for a specific incident involving emotion, fear, or anxiety. It claims it addresses the possibility or potential of injuries inflicted by a dog related incident, and falsely promises to provide reassurance of public safety and security.
- Finally, the adoption of breed bans almost always occurs in a relatively unusual political context. These bans seem to appear in circumstances marked by great emotionalism and limited inquiry into the sources and probability of risk. There is also very limited, if any, consideration of alternative policies done prior to implementation.

Let us first consider the proposal for Bill 128 in Quebec: *An Act to promote the protection of persons by establishing a framework with regard to dogs*, and how this is tied into current Ontario laws.³⁴

Quebec political leaders originally stated that they were in favor of Bill 128, partly due to the “overwhelming success” that Ontario has had in reducing dog bites since its implementation. Really? In this Bill, the first thing that jumped out was the fact that Bill 128 would supersede Bill 54, the *Quebec Sentient Beings Act; An Act to Improve the Legal Situation of Animals*, which was voted in by a vote of 109-0 (Civil code of Quebec 898.1). In this Act, it was determined that animals are beings capable of feelings, and have emotions – i.e. “sentient”. The fact that this law had to be written is a very sad reality, however having this officially written in legislation was a beacon of hope in an otherwise dismal world for Quebec animals, and was a huge step in the right direction for the province considering its world record number of puppy mills, the highest euthanasia rates in Canada, and Quebec’s poor reputation as “the best place in Canada to be an animal abuser”. Commonly referred to simply as *The Sentient Beings Act*, Bill 54 became sacred to the animal welfare world, and the mere fact that it had been threatened by Bill 128 caused mass fury amongst animal welfare advocates across the province, and the country.

Bill 128 was simple; it designated the province with the power to decide what domesticated pets are sentient, and which ones are not. AND, it declared that certain breeds of dog, **regardless of temperament or situation**, would be deemed as dangerous, including American Pit Bull Terriers, American Staffordshire Terriers, Staffordshire Bull Terriers, Rottweilers, any cross breed of involving any of these dogs, hybrid dogs, and any dog trained to protect, guard, fight or attack. With all the evidence available on the inapplicability of breed specific laws, it makes one question the drive behind the decision by the Quebec government to suddenly think this was the best course of action to protect the public from dangerous dogs.

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

³³ <http://www.assnat.qc.ca/en/travaux-parlementaires/projets-loi/projet-loi-54-41-1.html>

³⁴ http://www.assnat.qc.ca/Media/Process.aspx?MediaId=ANQ.Vigie.Bil.DocumentGenerique_128951en&process=Original&token=ZyMoxNwUn8ikQ+TRKYwPCjWrKwg+vIv9rjij7p3xLGTZDmLVSmJLoqe/vG7/YWzz

Bill 128 also claimed to conserve autonomy for municipalities by allowing them to put more extreme laws in place on top of the provincial law. There are many towns in Quebec, however, who have reversed their Breed Specific Legislation in recent years as they have learned it was nothing more than a costly waste of resources that does not actually protect the public; including but not limited to Chateauguay in August, 2017, and Montreal in December, 2017³⁵. Many cities in Ontario have also gone in a similar direction and have claimed that, mostly due to lack of funding, difficulty of enforcement, and difficulty of accurate breed identification, they cannot efficiently enforce the provincial ban. Thankfully, after hearing arguments from both sides, and after lengthy consultations throughout 2018, Quebec decided against enacting a provincial wide ban on any type or breed of dog.

The City of Ottawa has gone to the extent that they publicly declared it will not enforce the Ontario provincial ban on the official city website;³⁶

City of Ottawa

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

Ottawa uses their Animal Care and Control By-law³⁷ to encourage responsible ownership amongst the dog owners of the city. **This bylaw is completely breed neutral.** Ottawa also does not have a problem with aggressive dogs, problematic dogs, or otherwise, and the pets in the city are generally well cared for and responsibly owned³⁸. In 2019, the City of Toronto went the same route, and their current city bylaws are also completely breed neutral, focusing more on responsible ownership and adequate care of pets³⁹. Christine Hartig of the City of Ottawa bylaw services attended the consultations for Bill 128 and stated just that⁴⁰. Ottawa's chief of bylaw services, Roger Chapman, has stated in numerous interviews the difficulty that cities have in enforcing the breed specific components of DOLA.

The City of Ottawa also keeps statistics on the total number of dog bites per year, which indicate that "pit bull" type dogs account for a very small percentage of reported incidents⁴¹. Between the year 2005 when the provincial ban was implemented and the end of 2016, there were 4113 dog bites officially reported and recorded in Ottawa; 16 (0.004%) came from dogs accurately identified as "pit bulls" or "pit bull" mixes. There is an average of 450 dog bites reported each year in the city, with less than 2% of these bites come from dogs initially typed as "pit bull". This is further evidence that with the hundreds of "pit bull" type dogs peacefully living in the city, they are not the root cause of vicious dog bites or attacks. Since 2016, Ottawa has ceased to specify breed in their bite statistics due to ownership almost always being at fault, not the breed.

Below, in a 2016 interview with Metro News Ottawa⁴² Chapman explains his rationale as to why the city does not enforce:

³⁵ Refer to [Annex 3: List of Repeals of Breed Specific Legislation in Municipalities Across North America \(2016 – present\)](#)

³⁶ <https://ottawa.ca/en/residents/animals-and-pets/registration-and-regulations#cat-and-dog-registration>

³⁷ <https://ottawa.ca/en/living-ottawa/laws-licences-and-permits/laws/law-z/animal-care-and-control-law-no-2003-77>

³⁸ There are many other Ontario cities who do not enforce the DOLA, however they have not publicly made such a declaration.

³⁹ [City of Toronto Animal Control Bylaw](#)

⁴⁰ <http://www.assnat.qc.ca/fr/travaux-parlementaires/commissions/ci-41-1/journal-debats/CI-180321.html>

⁴¹ Due to the low numbers of bites by "pit bull" type dogs, the City of Ottawa now only tracks the number of reported dog bites and do not include breed of dog in their statistics.

⁴² <http://www.metronews.ca/news/ottawa/2016/08/15/pit-bull-crack-down-too-costly-ottawa-bylaw-chief-says.html>

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

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

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

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

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

It is important to understand that "panic policy" is always an immediate emotional response to the stimulus of an intrusive or injurious, highly publicized event. As time passes and the event recedes in memory, the public's emotions will cool. People will become discouraged or abandon their demands for a policy change and eventually their demand for action will fade. The panic consequently "fades", and rather than re-examining the laws and whether or not they are actually effective, many policy makers ignore the issue with the fear that they will be proven wrong, and will need to go back on something they claimed as "dire" in order to pass the law in the first place.

In Ontario, the actual record of events leading up to implementation of BSL is difficult to construct because of the "behind closed doors" decisions that participants refuse to describe. The province wide ban on "pit bull" type dogs, however, evidences as a specific version of panic policy making at its finest.

It is fact and is on record that breed specific legislation was fairly voted out of Ontario with the presentation of Bill 16, which was a Tri-Party Bill, on 23 February 2012. At this time, there were 77 out of the 108 members sitting on the Ontario Legislative Assembly present, and of those 77 members of parliament, 51 of them (66%) fairly voted in favor of lifting BSL from Ontario legislation. **I repeat; BSL was fairly voted OUT in the Ontario Legislative Assembly.** In an attempt to block the repeal of BSL, the Liberal government, led by then premier Dalton McGuinty, prorogued the parliamentary session, therefore postponing the final reading of this bill and essentially killing it, ensuring their own political agenda was not damaged. Sadly, to the dismay of animal welfare advocates who finally saw a light at the end of the tunnel, once again, the ban was not lifted. It was a dark day for Ontarians to discover that the former Liberal leader of our province was ruling Ontario as a dictatorship, rather than as the democracy it is. There was no thought given to the fact that they were completely denying the people of Ontario their fundamental right to freedom of choice as stated in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.⁴³

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

In this particular situation, there were many questions that should have been asked: Why did these dogs suddenly attack? What was the circumstance surrounding the attack? Was there a history of abuse toward the dogs? Were the dogs a product of irresponsible breeding practices? Was there something potentially being covered up preventing an accurate investigation? Were any of the neighbors questioned? There was much speculation

⁴³ See [Annex 5: Results of the vote for Bill 16 in 2012](#) for the results of this vote.

following the incident that the man walking the dogs was involved in organized crime, including the selling of narcotics and dog fighting, but of course this allegation was not taken into consideration... Why?

Sadly, the focus instead was on the fact that these dogs had allegedly attacked for no reason, although some neighbors reported differently, stating that those dogs were known as “trained to kill” in the community. None of these circumstances were adequately investigated, even though it was glaringly obvious that something was missing in the information provided to the public. Throughout the course of reporting of this incident, the focus remained solely on the injury to the individual, and more importantly, the type of dogs involved. There was never mention, or even an investigation, of the likely repugnant living situation of the dogs, nor was there focus on the human failure the dogs had most likely endured. The dogs in question were the ones who lost their lives. They were victims of irresponsible ownership at its finest, yet somehow they were the ones who were vilified. So again, why was this incident not investigated and why did the government of Ontario instead invoke the panic policy known as BSL? In the incident that was the one that broke the camel’s back, there was no loss of human life so the question needs to be asked again - why were the lives of the people previously involved in fatal dog attacks irrelevant to the Ontario government? And why did they only act when it was a “pit bull” that was involved?

Against all evidence and animal expert opinion received during consultations for implementing BSL (43 out of 44 animal welfare experts to be exact), the Liberal Party of Ontario’s Attorney General, Michael Bryant, decided to go ahead and legislate a ban on the ownership of “pit bulls” in the province. Critics of the Liberals – the party of majority in the Legislative Assembly at the time – have suggested that the ban was a tactic manufactured by the Liberals to deflect criticism of the growth of provincial crime and gang activity, mostly in the Toronto area. Then opposition Progressive Conservatives and New Democratic Party legislators also speculated that he proposed the ban to deflect media attention from other issues and unpopular policies bedeviling the Liberal government at the time. In the eyes of the opposition, the statement of a “pit bull” problem in the province was purely a politically motivated event.

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

The Liberal government moved on to press releases and media interviews, led by Bryant, in an attempt to orchestrate public support for a “pit bull” ban. Bryant characterized the dogs as a “dangerous menace to society” and compared them to a “loaded weapon”. At no point did he mention the accusation of only criminals owning dogs typed as a “pit bull” or the criminal activity that he claimed went hand in hand with ownership of a “pit bull”, nor was there mention of the fact that due to all of the Liberal’s sensationalized hype around this type of dog, “pit bulls” had sadly become the favorites amongst members of gangs and other criminal organizations. Or maybe, his mind was so set on implementing BSL that he truly believed that even the behavior and actions of the irresponsible owner was the fault of these dogs.

Press releases cited multiple municipal officials, including the Mayor of Toronto, the Chief of Toronto Police Services, the Mayor of Kitchener, and the Mayor of Wawa, as supporters of the ban, none of whom are experts in animal behavior. The Liberal government also then arranged press statements by victims of attacks, in a

desperate attempt to get public approval for this new law, explaining about the extent of their injuries, with their comments emphasizing the alleged danger “pit bulls” posed for children.

Ask yourself the following questions: if the Ontario Liberals were SO sure that their breed banning practices are fully supported by the entire province, why are there hundreds of thousands of advocates fighting for their family pets every year? Why are there so many dogs with similar characteristics to “pit bull” type dogs living in the province peacefully as part of a loving, responsible family? Why are the records of these decisions and alleged expert consultation notes still protected from release to the public? Why are there tens of millions of “pit bulls” around the world who did nothing but love their families last night, without incident? Why every year are there so many protests, many of whom include these supposedly “dangerous dogs”, promoting all the good things about these dogs, occurring WITHOUT INCIDENT? Why are there hundreds of thousands of people across the country fighting to save their pets from annihilation? Why are there hundreds of organizations right here in Ontario who oppose breed specific regulations with millions of strong voices behind them? And finally, why did the mother of a child who was tragically killed by a Bull Mastiff, a dog that could easily have been targeted as a dog having the “characteristics of a pit bull” as described in the Ontario provincial ban, come out herself as a strong opponent against BSL?⁴⁴

It is a proven fact that BSL will never work, and that once implemented, it is incredibly difficult to repeal due to the unwillingness of the law makers to admit fault or error. Why does the city of Calgary refuse to implement BSL, yet has the lowest dog bites per capita on record in Canada? Could it be due to city and provincial governments support of mandatory public and owner education about dogs (including early education in the elementary school curriculum), required canine training, tougher criminal penalties for irresponsible dog ownership and ownership of a known dangerous dog (including steep fines for non-compliance with animal control bylaws), better reporting of dog bites, comprehensive dog licensing with steep fines for non-compliance with city bylaws, and controls on dog breeding and puppy mills are the real way to ensure public safety? With tougher penalties in place to deter the behavior of criminal activity, animal negligence, and irresponsible ownership, public safety is certain to be affected, and this time for the better! For more information on the Calgary model please refer to [Chapter 9: The Calgary Model](#).



With the introduction of Bill 147⁴⁵ on November 20, 2019, the people of Ontario once again had hope that the newly elected Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario, with the support of the New Democratic Party, would be the ones who finally have the safety of the public as their first priority. The Bill, which was presented by MPP Rick Nicholls with the full support of MPP David Piccini, requested that the breed specific language be removed, and that owner accountability and public education be enacted instead. MPP Nicholls based his Bill on scientific and factual evidence, as well as using statistical proof from the City of Calgary, who reduced their bites exponentially by including mandatory education on dog behavior to children in elementary schools. Calgary does

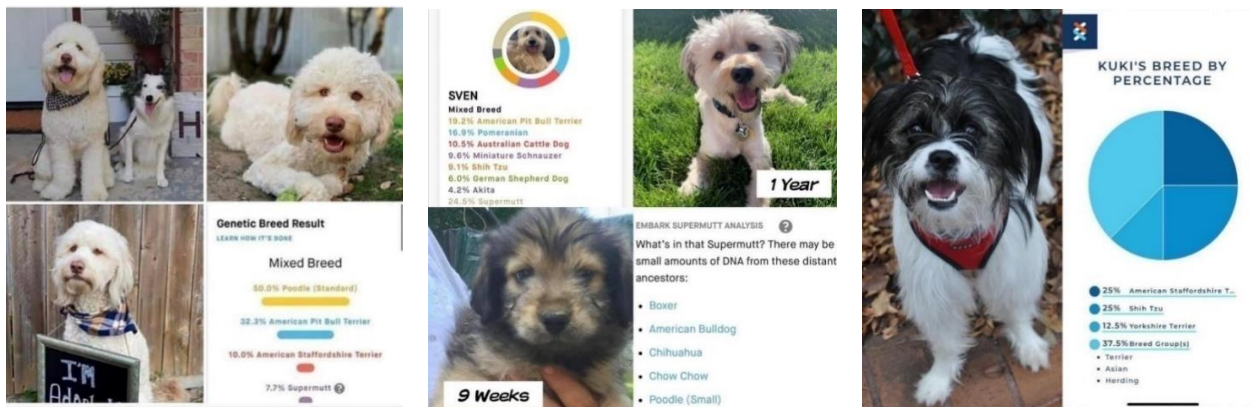
⁴⁴ Refer to [Annex 2: List of Ontario Supporters Against Breed Specific Legislation](#) for information on these organizations in Ontario.

⁴⁵ <https://www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/bills/parliament-42/session-1/bill-147>

not have a problem with aggressive dogs of any breed, and also have an animal control program in place that is of no cost to the tax paying public. To this day, Calgary has breed neutral laws.⁴⁶

MPP Nicholls, with the help of MPP David Piccini, hoped to make an example of irresponsible owners of all breeds, aided by the recently passed Provincial Animal Welfare Services Act (affectionately called the PAWS Act) which sees the strictest penalties in the country for animal abuse, cruelty, and neglect⁴⁷. There was never a better time to show the citizens of Ontario that the Government has their safety as their top priority. Irresponsible owners should be made an example of, which is the hope of every animal welfare advocate across the province, and the country.

As mentioned previously, DNA testing to accurately identify a dog identified as a “pit bull” is unreliable and does not provide factual evidence on temperament of a dog. Below are some examples as to why DNA testing is impractical - according to the results of their DNA tests and the DOLA as currently written, these are **all** illegal dogs in Ontario:



DNA Results: **42.3%** “pit bull”

DNA Results: **19.2%** “pit bull”

DNA Results: **25%** “pit bull”

MPP Nicholls and MPP Piccini continued to push their bill forward, especially after witnessing the horrors felt by families victimized by this cruel and unjust law - notably the heartbreaking incident involving a dog held by Vaughan Animal Services (VAS) named Gamboa. Gamboa was confirmed to not be a “pit bull” by not one, but TWO separate veterinarians, yet VAS decided to accept the results of a DNA test and keep the dog in a cage for 153 LONG days. The cost of this single incident was astronomical, and included boarding costs, transportation to Quebec, and the legal proceedings for wrongfully holding a dog under BSL. It is estimated that this case cost the tax payers in Vaughan well over \$100,000.00. Wow, right? This was not even close to an isolated incident at VAS either – there were other cases that caught the ire of advocates in the province at this very shelter, including Kilo, Ringo, and Dwaaji. Gamboa’s family wanted him home; they ALL suffered extreme mental anxiety and emotional anguish. VAS refused to listen to their plight, or the plight of the thousands of advocates who also pleaded for the release of this dog for months. Sadly, this is not an isolated incident in the province: there have been a countless number of dogs who have been wrongfully withheld from their families since BSL was implemented in Ontario⁴⁸. Unfortunately, due to the COVID_19 pandemic and another prorogue of the government, Bill 147 died on the table prior to completing consultations.

In conclusion to this chapter, science, evidence, and facts demonstrate that “pit bull” type dogs should not automatically be deemed as dangerous due to isolated incident. A dog, like humans, requires guidance and structure in order to learn proper and acceptable behaviors. It is the **responsibility** of the government to ensure that laws promoting public safety and adequate protection from dog related incidents exist in order to ensure the safety of not only the citizens of Ontario, but also to Ontario’s animals.

⁴⁶ Refer to [Chapter 9: The Calgary Model](#)

⁴⁷ <https://www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/bills/parliament-42/session-1/bill-136>

⁴⁸ Refer to the Ontario Coalition Against BSL website at [this tab](#) for a sampling of dogs who have been targeted by BSL in the province.

CHAPTER 7: THE FACTS OF BREED SPECIFIC LEGISLATION

What is Breed Specific Legislation?

Breed Specific Legislation (BSL), sometimes referred as Breed Discriminatory Legislation (BDL), is any blanket legislation forcing certain restrictions or regulations on dogs of a certain breed, size, weight, or appearance without considering the behavior of individual animals or the lack of responsibility of individual owners. BSL is not just about breed bans, it is also about restrictions surrounding certain breeds and types of dogs.⁴⁹

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

BSL consistently creates a false sense of public security. The often misinformed general public will assume that with animal control bylaws in place such as BSL, there is a very slim, if any, chance to be attacked or bitten by a dog. This law exists for the exact reason of protecting them from dog bites, right? Wrong! Little do they know that BSL actually makes it more probable that they will be involved in some sort of dog confrontation, as this law often ignores problematic dogs who are not deemed as “dangerous breeds”. This is why it has been stated over and over again by animal experts, as well as animal control enforcement officers, that BSL is a very over inclusive/under inclusive law. For example, in 2016/17, according to the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care for Ontario, there were a reported 13,643 dog bites ranging in severity by hundreds of different breeds and types of dogs, just in 2016 alone. **Three** of these bites came from dogs who were classified as “pit bulls”. That is a very clear and concise statistic, provided by one of the leading agencies of healthcare in the province, that by having BSL in place, you are most certainly not given any guarantee that you will not be involved in a dog related incident.⁵⁰

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

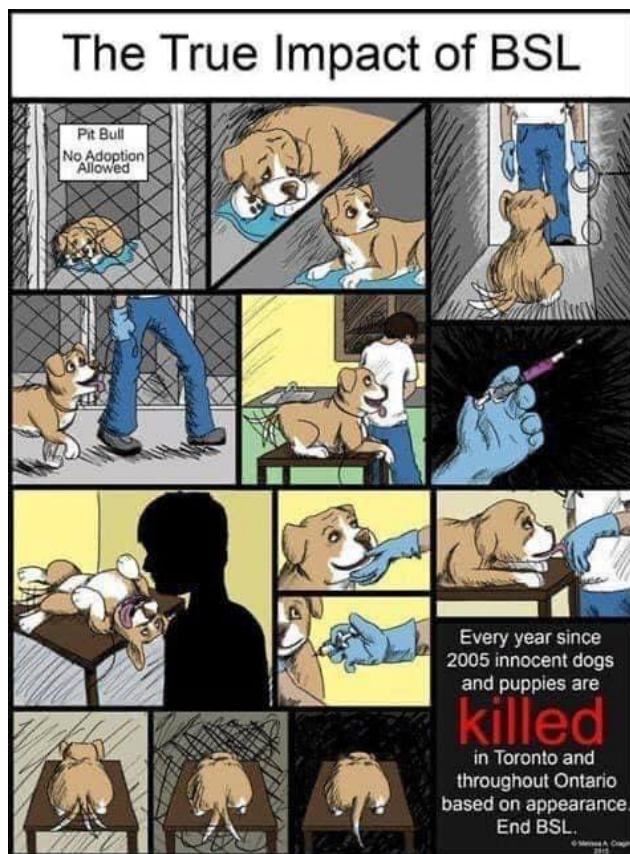
Breed Specific Legislation does NOT work!

There has never been a municipality across the world that has successfully implemented BSL and achieved the guarantee of public safety from dangerous dogs or dog related incidents. In each instance of implementation of BSL, there has been no reduction of dog bites and no increase to public safety, as municipalities are concentrating all their efforts on one breed of dog rather than dealing with the dogs that are actually

⁴⁹ <https://stopbsl.org/bsloverview/>

⁵⁰ Note that there is some conflicting info if the bite by “pit bulls” number is 13,640 or 13,639. The number 13,640 is based directly off the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care report.

“dangerous”. BSL forces responsible owners to hide their well-behaved dogs out of fear, creating potential for under-socialized dogs, which could then result in problematic behavior.



It is a fact that there are MANY issues associated with breed specific laws, most notably the inability of untrained law enforcement agents (i.e. those not professionally trained in animal identification) to accurately visually identify the breed of dog. Even animal experts such as the Canadian Kennel Club, SPCAs, Humane Societies across the country, and veterinarians across the world struggle with accurate visual confirmation of breed of dog.⁵¹

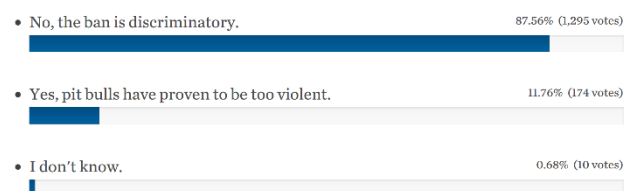
Since the implementation of BSL in Ontario in 2005, statistics indicate that the yearly number of dog bites in Ontario has consistently increased and that other breeds of dogs not targeted by breed specific laws across the province have been responsible for far more bites overall than “pit bull” types, even though the “pit bull” population (or dogs with similar characteristics to a “pit bull” that could be included in the provincial BSL) in Ontario has only minimally decreased. BSL continues to cause many additional problems for the province. For example, why, if Ontario has laws in place banning “pit bull” type dogs, are there SO many media reports of incidents involving alleged “pit bull” type dogs in the news? Does that mean that all these dogs are inaccurately identified? Why was a pure breed Black Labrador Retriever with CKC papers targeted under BSL and removed from its home until these papers were produced proving that animal control was wrong? It’s not much wonder that Ontarians are afraid to register their dogs.

The legislation in Ontario has resulted in the unnecessary euthanasia of thousands of innocent dogs and puppies who had no history of violence against people or other animals. It is commonly agreed upon by the general public, as well as many of our currently sitting politicians in multiple municipalities, that the onus of control of the dog should be placed on the owner, regardless of the breed. This has been made clear as of late with the results of polls in news outlets such as the Toronto Star⁵² who even though has a history of very negative reporting of “pit bulls”, the polls still show the overwhelming support of repealing BSL and replacing it with a law based on owner accountability.

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

Have your say:

Should Ontario keep the ban on pit bulls? (Question Closed)



Total Votes: 1,479

⁵¹ <http://veterinarymedicine.dvm360.com/judging-dog-its-cover-dangers-breed-misidentification>

⁵² <https://www.thestar.com/politics/provincial/2019/10/08/ontarios-top-lawmaker-looks-for-ideas-on-reforms-to-pit-bull-ban.html>

Why BSL is WRONG

- BSL does not improve public safety or prevent dog bites. Studies from areas where BSL has been applied show that dog bite rates remain approximately the same;
- An irresponsible dog owner of a banned breed will still be an irresponsible owner of the next dog they are able to obtain;
- Studies show that BSL is a tremendous burden to tax payers, both financially and mentally;
- BSL provides the population with a false sense of security, believing that “dangerous dogs” of the world are restricted. This exacerbates the problem politicians claim to be trying to fix by enacting BSL in the first place;
- BSL enhances the “negative prestige” of the breed in the minds of the wrong type of guardian (e.g. people using dogs for criminal activities normally choose them because of public perception of the breed. Simply put - they are not concerned with what kind of dog it is as it is the illegal activity they are hiding, not the dog);
- BSL ignores the plight of victims and potential victims of dog related incidents when it involved a non-targeted breed of dog⁵³;
- BSL punishes responsible guardians and behaviorally sound dogs more than it protects society; these people are affected before any actual infraction occurs;
- BSL requires dogs to be visually identified as a specific breed – a proven virtually impossible task;
- BSL does nothing to hold irresponsible dog owners accountable for the actions of their dogs, especially if their dog is not a banned breed; and finally
- Not one single reputable animal welfare organization supports BSL.

The American Bar Association strongly discourages the implementation of any form of BSL by government administrations, citing that these laws are impossible to execute at the enforcement or judicial levels. Law enforcement officials have no way to accurately visually identify a breed, complicating traditional notions of due process. In court proceedings, breed misidentification, as well as property rights and basic human rights, negate convictions. If there is one link to a study in this presentation that politicians considering Breed Specific Legislation should read, it's this one from the legal point of view.⁵⁴⁵⁵

One of many available examples is as follows: In January of 2010, authorities in Brampton, Ontario seized two dogs, about whom there had been no complaint for running at large, aggression or biting, claiming that they satisfied the loose definition of “pit bull” as outlined in the Dog Owners Liability Act of Ontario. The dogs were evaluated by an independent veterinarian who advised the city that the dogs did not satisfy the definition. After the dogs had been in the animal shelter for 97 days, they were finally released to their owners. According to the Brampton Guardian, the city expended approximately \$43,000.00 in the matter of just these 2 dogs. The dogs, although eventually reunited with their very relieved owners, were still unjustly subject to BSL.⁵⁶⁵⁷

The following is a non-exhaustive list of a sampling of reputable organizations from across the world who publicly oppose Breed Discriminatory Legislation with links to their position statements⁵⁸:

1. [RSPCA Australia](#)
2. [Best Friends Animal Society](#)
3. [Chicago Veterinary Medical Association](#)
4. [Pet Professional Guild](#)
5. [Ottawa Humane Society](#)

⁵³ <https://stopbsl.org/bsloverview/the-injustice-to-victims/>

⁵⁴ <http://www.americanbar.org>

⁵⁵ <https://www.nationalcanineresearchcouncil.com/news/american-bar-association-aba-urges-repeal-all-breed-specific-laws>

⁵⁶ <https://www.bramptonguardian.com/news-story/3071562-dogs-freed-ruled-not-pitbulls-video/>

⁵⁷ https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2010/02/02/seized_dogs_are_pit_bulls_brampton_says.html

⁵⁸ For a detailed list of Ontario supporters of breed neutral laws, please reference [Annex 2: List of Ontario Supporters Against Breed Specific Legislation](#)

6. [Association of Canine Professionals International](#)
7. [Association of Professional Dog Trainers](#)
8. [American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior](#)
9. [National Canine Research Council](#)
10. [Humane Society International \(Canada\)](#)
11. [The Humane Society of the United States](#)
12. [The Washington Federation of Animal Care and Control Agencies](#)
13. [Montreal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals \(SPCA\)](#)
14. [American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals](#)
15. [Canadian Veterinary Medical Association](#)
16. [American Veterinary Medical Association](#)
17. [British Veterinary Association](#)
18. [Canadian Kennel Club](#)
19. [American Kennel Club](#)
20. [United Kennel Club](#)
21. [British Columbia SPCA](#)
22. [The Toronto Humane Society](#)
23. [The Ontario Veterinary Medical Association](#)
24. [Golden Retriever Club of America](#)
25. [The Humane Society of Kitchener Waterloo and Stratford Perth](#)
26. [The Staffordshire Bull Terrier Club of Canada](#)

There are more than 100 municipalities all over North America who have reversed their breed specific laws since 2016 alone⁵⁹. In the United States, as of 2020, there are 24 States that have a form of Anti-BSL legislation in place, prohibiting municipalities within their borders from enacting a law that targets a certain breed of dog. It is proven over and over again to be baseless discrimination.⁶⁰ Below is a sample from California legislation, including the findings and rationales behind the decision to not include breed specific restrictions in the State law:

California

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

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

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

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

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

BSL IS AN ETHICAL AND PUBLIC SAFETY FAILURE!⁶¹

⁵⁹ Refer to [Annex 3: List of Repeals of Breed Specific Legislation in Municipalities Across North America \(2016 – present\)](#)

⁶⁰ <https://www.animallaw.info/article/overview-states-prohibit-bsl>

⁶¹ <https://www.themoottimes.com/post/ontario-breed-specific-legislation-has-had-its-day>

CHAPTER 8: THE COST OF ENFORCING BSL

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

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

For our estimates and breakdowns of cost we will provide 3 examples where we have come up with our figures. First we will examine the city of Toronto, and the costs that the tax payers of the City face under the current BSL in the DOLA. Second, we will provide the provincial breakdown of costs. Lastly will be the high profile case, commonly known as the “Chatham 21”.⁶²

For reference, according to public record:

- There are 444 municipalities in the province of Ontario with populations that range from small towns of less than 1000 to large metropolitan cities of over 1,000,000. These municipalities are the responsibility of 124 sitting Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs);
- The 2019 population of Ontario is 14.57 million people;
- It is a requirement to have one additional bylaw officer per 150,000 people, or one bylaw officer per municipality in smaller towns, to enforce BSL exactly as currently written, with an average salary of \$44,850/year;
- Boarding costs of confiscated dogs last on average 90 days before either being released to their family, relocation, or euthanization, and includes food and shelter, at a cost of approximately \$50 per day;
- The average salary of a lawyer in Ontario is \$96,000/year or 50\$/hour,
- The average salary of a judge in Ontario is \$300,000/year or \$153/hour,
- The average salary for a police officer in Ontario is \$65,000/year or \$33/hour,
- The average salary of a veterinarian is \$70,000/year or \$36/hour,
- The average salary of a bylaw officer is \$44,850/year or \$23/hour;
- There is significant court time involved in many of cases where dogs are confiscated by animal control or police services. Assuming that there are lawyers, judges, warrants, witnesses, police, veterinarians, and bylaw involved, the average cost per case (that lasts approximately 90 days) is a minimum of \$200,000;
- Euthanization and/or relocation of animals out of province, which often times includes DNA testing in an attempt to confirm breed as well as additional veterinary care, is approximately \$700 per case (assuming that euthanization costs average approximately \$350-400, DNA testing is approximately \$200-250, and/or relocation costs average approximately \$400-500);

The Annual Cost of Enforcing BSL in the City of Toronto

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

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

- 43 additional bylaw officers – \$44,850/average salary per year: \$1,928,550.00

⁶² Refer to [Chapter 3: The Resilience of “Pit Bull” Type Dogs](#) for more information on the Chatham 21 case.

- Based on an estimate of 100 dogs targeted, and an average cost per day of \$50 for boarding,multiplied by the average of 90 days: \$450,000.00
- Based on an estimate of 100 annual cases and using the 90 day average, the cost for legal fees, including the cost of police enforcement is:
 - lawyer fee based on 1 hour per day/90 day case length at an average of \$50/hour: \$450,000.00
 - judge fee based on 5 hours per case at an average of \$150/hour: \$75,000.00
 - law enforcement based on 5 hours per case at an average of \$34/hour: \$17,000.00
- Based on an estimate of 100 cases and using the 90 day average, the cost for veterinarian care for targeted dogs is (assuming they see the dog on a daily basis): \$324,000.00
- Based on an estimate of 100 cases and using the 90 day average, the cost for euthanization, relocation costs, an DNA testing is:
 - DNA testing for 100 dogs: \$20,000.00
 - Relocation/euthanization costs for an average of 50% of confiscated dogs: \$40,000.00

ANNUAL GRAND TOTAL FOR TORONTO USING COST AVERAGES ALONE: **\$3,304,550.00**

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

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

- 1 extra animal control officers per municipality per year: \$22,200,000.00
- Boarding costs of confiscated dogs based on averages above for length of stay and assuming there are 5 dogs per year per municipality: \$9,990,000.00
- Court time based on average of 5 dogs per year per municipality:
 - lawyer fee based on 1 hour per day/90 day case length/average of \$50/hour: \$9,990,000.00
 - judge fee based on 5 hours per case/average of \$150/hour: \$1,665,000.00
 - law enforcement based on 5 hours per case/average of \$34/hour: \$377,400.00
- Veterinarian care based on average of 5 dogs per year per municipality: \$7,192,800.00
- Euthanasia, relocation, and DNA testing costs per year per municipality:
 - DNA testing for average of 5 dogs per municipality: \$444,000.00
 - Relocation/euthanization for average of 5 dogs per municipality: \$888,000.00

ANNUAL GRAND TOTAL FOR ONTARIO USING COST AVERAGES ALONE: **\$52,747,200.00**

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

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

The Chatham 21 Case⁶³

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

The 2 worst parts of this case were as follows:

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

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

⁶³ Refer to [Chapter 3: The Resilience of “Pit Bull” Type Dogs](#) for further information

CHAPTER 9: THE CALGARY MODEL

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

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

Bill Bruce, the former Director of Animal Services & Bylaws in Calgary⁶⁴, who took the reins of animal control in Calgary in 2000, stands behind this statement and supports targeting irresponsible owners, rather than pets. The City’s approach to responsible pet ownership incorporates licensing, providing permanent identification to animals (microchipping), training, physical care, socialization, medical attention, not allowing pets to become a threat or nuisance in the community, public education, and enforcement, with supporting agencies all working together to achieve the same goals. Educational programs, developed for school age children through to adults, address responsible citizenship and responsible animal ownership. Educational program for students from kindergarten to grade six are based in the curriculum and include PAWS: Dog Bite Prevention, Dogs in Our Society, Urban Coyotes, and the Junior bylaw project, just to name a few.⁶⁵ The educators appointed by the city visit schools, present the programs, and supply resource material for students and teachers, free of charge. The team also speaks to community groups and attends any animal related events held in the city. There is strong public support for the efforts of Bill Bruce from the citizens of Calgary. They know that their kind, trained, and friendly Animal Services Department is there to help, not to harm.

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

Calgary’s dog licensing and registration requirement is consistently between a 93-98% rate of compliance, where most city’s only average somewhere between 10-30%. Bruce believes such a high number of dog owners license their pets because residents are aware of the value received for the money spent. There is no way to achieve this kind of licensing compliance in an environment where citizens feel they must hide their dogs and cats from pet

⁶⁴ <https://www.calgary.ca/CSPS/ABS/Pages/Bylaws-by-topic/Dogs.aspx>

⁶⁵ To view the program in place for Ontario for Dog Bite Prevention Month, occurring every year for the month of April, please see [Annex 6: Dog Bite Prevention Children’s Educational Program](#)

limit laws, BSL, crushing differential licensing fees, or mandatory spay/neuter laws. Without this high licensing compliance, none of the rest of the success could have happened.

Bruce notes the City's registration program makes it extremely convenient to license dogs. Licenses can be bought in person at two City locations, online, in banks, by mail, by night deposit, or directly through any bylaw officer. It's no hassle, and every nickel that is collected goes directly back to the animals, ensuring the appreciation of animal owners across the City as they can see the true value for their money, and the safety and care it provides.

The Calgary Humane Society gets an annual grant from the City registration program, and the registration fees also pay the salary of their bylaw officers, the Director of animal control, and the City's educational programs. If an animal needs emergency medical care because it has been hit by a car or is otherwise injured, that is also covered. The Calgary animal registration program not only pays for basics such as staff, equipment, and the new shelter (which was built on October 7, 2000, is state of the art, has never been filled to its capacity, and is staffed by a full time vet), but also for extras like a new clinic currently under construction that will provide free spaying and neutering to low-income families.

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

The City has a strict fine structure that includes a \$250 penalty for unlicensed dogs and chase incidents, a 200\$ fine for animals tethered in public unattended or out of site, and \$500 fines for bites to another person. Those whose dogs defecate on public property in Calgary are fined \$500 if it is not cleaned up. Dogs are not allowed to be "at large" meaning they need to be attended to or supervised (depending on whether it's public or private property). The fine for an "at large" dog is \$150. A person caught teasing or tormenting a dog in an enclosed space, which is officially considered an offence in the city, is ticketed \$500. The bylaw also allows animal control officers to declare specific dogs as "dangerous" which brings with it higher license fees, muzzling rules, and age restrictions on the dog's handlers. The bylaw states that a dog can only be destroyed by owner request or court order. There is NO mention of specific breeds of any animal in the city bylaws.⁶⁶

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

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

⁶⁶ See Calgary bylaw in full at [this](#) link.

The keys to Calgary's success are:

<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
Providing valued services for city pets	No punishing citizens into compliance
Extensive education and PR campaigns provided by the city to emphasize responsible ownership	No mandatory spay/neuter
Buy in and cooperation amongst the community	NO BREED SPECIFIC LEGISLATION
Low license fees and modest differential fees for intact pets	Equal treatment for all dogs and owners!

The net results of their efforts have been impressive. Calgary's dog attacks fell to lowest level in 25 years despite the absence of breed specific legislation. Over the past 20 years, Calgary has cut their number of dog bites and chases by more than 75%, all the while the human and dog population of Calgary has more than quadrupled. So much has been accomplished by focusing on root issues of problems, providing service to their "customers", and encouraging people to obey their current bylaws. "It's not about enforcement, it's about compliance" says Bruce.

Calgary bylaw officers recorded 340 reported aggressive dog incidents in 2008 which included chases, bites, and damage to property. Of those, 145 complaints were bites. In 2007, 374 aggressive dog calls were made, including 137 bites, and in 2006, 402 aggressive dog complaints were made, of which 199 were bite related. By comparison, back in 1985, the city received 1938 aggressive dog complaints, including 621 bite related incidents, at a time when Calgary had a population of just over 600,000. The population is now close to 1.34 million.

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

The Calgary system was built to penalize and correct relatively minor behavioral issues in dogs before they can escalate into something serious. "No dog wakes up and decides to start biting people today", says Bruce. "It always starts with lesser behaviors that are left unchecked." Fines increase with the severity of the offense. Owners are ticketed \$500 if their dogs bite, which is increased to \$2000 if the bite is serious enough to cause severe injury. Bylaw officers will seize vicious dogs who attack and hold them for 30 days until the matter goes to court. The City will only destroy the animal if the judge orders so. "When you have a vicious dog, you can almost guarantee the owner's a jerk", Bruce said. "The dog reflects the owner's behavior."

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

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

CHAPTER 10: CONCLUSION

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

Dogs, such as service dogs to the blind, and companion dogs to those suffering from mental health disorders such as anxiety and depression, are a key element to the continued independent living of their owners, and play a VITAL role in their wellbeing. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau once stated at the United Nations General Assembly "to reject others because they look differently than we do (is wrong)". Does this statement also apply to the people who rely on their dog, regardless of breed, to survive? Should their dogs be removed due to a breed specific law and in turn find **themselves** as the danger to society without their dogs to keep them stabilized? How is BSL about putting people first when these people, and their mental and physical wellbeing, would be in great jeopardy without their animals? How is BSL about putting people first, when it is those people who suffer with the needless loss, and often unwarranted euthanasia, of their innocent, well behaved dog?

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

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

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

ANNEX 1: LETTER OF SUPPORT FROM ONTARIO VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION



December 17, 2018

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

Dear Minister,

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

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

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

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

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

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

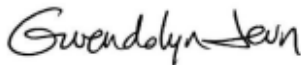
Research has clearly shown that a more effective approach to dealing with dangerous dogs would be to improve bite prevention education and implement non-breed-specific, dangerous dog laws which place the primary responsibility for a dog's behavior on the owner, regardless of the dog's breed. For example,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

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

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

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

Sincerely,



Dr. Gwen Jeun
President

CC'ed:

Mr. David Piccini
MPP for Northumberland/Peterborough South

Honourable Sylvia Jones
Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services

ANNEX 2: LIST OF ONTARIO SUPPORTERS AGAINST BREED SPECIFIC LEGISLATION

The following is a non-exhaustive list of Ontario animal care associations and organizations who oppose breed specific laws of any sort. Note that this list does not include organizations outside the animal welfare and care world who also oppose BSL, nor does it include Canada-wide supporters:

1. Alliston and District Humane Society
2. Animal Justice
3. Anti Breed Specific Legislation in Ontario
4. Archie and Friends Kennel
5. Arnprior & District Humane Society
6. Association of Animal Shelter Administrators of Ontario
7. Banned Aid
8. Barrie Animal Centre
9. The Beach Dog Market
10. Beaches Fallingbrook Veterinary Clinic
11. Benevolent Bullies Rescue
12. Big Sky Ranch Animal Sanctuary
13. Blueboy Organics
14. Brampton Animal Services
15. Brant County SPCA
16. Brent D Silva Dog Photographer
17. Brock Dench Animal Shelter
18. BSL Awareness Global/Breed Specific Legislation Awareness
19. Bullies in Need
20. Bully Breeds of Ontario
21. Bully Love Boutique
22. Burlington Humane Society
23. Caledon Animal Shelter
24. Cambridge and District Humane Society
25. Carters Forever Rescue and Sanctuary
26. Clarington Animal Shelter
27. Coco Mutts Groomers
28. Dankroft K9 Services
29. Diamond Pet Food
30. The Dog Dude
31. Dog Tales Sanctuary
32. Don Cherry Foundation
33. Dream Team – Search Rescue & Recovery Inc.
34. Etobicoke Humane Society
35. The Fluffy Carnivore
36. Freedom Dog Rescue
37. Full Circle Dog Rescue
38. Fur-Ever Able Dog Rescue and Rehabilitation
39. Gananoque & District Humane Society
40. Gemini K9 Obedience
41. Georgian Triangle Humane Society
42. Georgina Animal Shelter and Adoption Centre
43. Good-E Dog Treats
44. Good Wolf Dog Photographer
45. Green Party of Ontario
46. Grey Bruce Animal Shelter

47. Guelph Humane Society
48. Hamilton Burlington SPCA
49. Hank's Haven Rescue Foundation
50. HART Highland Animal Relief Team
51. Heal Doggy
52. Hershey Anti BSL Group
53. Honorbound Kennels
54. Humane Society of Canada
55. Humane Society of Kawartha Lakes (HSLK)
56. Humane Society of Kitchener Waterloo and Stratford Perth
57. Humane Society London & Middlesex
58. The Justin and Eileen Cork Animal Shelter
59. K9 Klub Dog Daycare
60. K9 Kulture
61. K9X Training
62. Kingston Humane Society
63. Kitchener Waterloo Humane Society
64. Lakefield Animal Welfare Society
65. Lanark Animal Welfare Society
66. Leeds & Grenville Animal Centre
67. Lennox and Addington Animal Centre
68. Lincoln County Humane Society Animal Clinic
69. Loyalist Humane Society
70. Luna the Pittie
71. Marshalls Dog Rescue
72. Midland and District SPCA
73. Mindful Dog Co Dog Behavior and Rehabilitation
74. Miss Dixie's Foundation
75. Mississauga Animal Services
76. Muskoka Animal Centre
77. Navan Animal Rescue Corporation (NARC)
78. Niagara Dog Rescue
79. Niagara Falls Humane Society
80. Nice Dog, Scarlett Dog Training
81. North Bay and District Humane Society
82. Northumberland Humane Society
83. Oakville & Milton Humane Society
84. Ontario Bully Breeds
85. Ontario Coalition Against BSL
86. Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
87. Ontario SPCA - Provincial Education & Animal Centre
88. Ontario Veterinarians for Responsible Dog Ownership Bylaws
89. Ontario Veterinary Medical Association
90. Ontario "Pit Bull" Coop – Bickell Family Fund
91. Orillia Animal Centre
92. Oshawa Animal Services
93. Ottawa Citizens Against Breed Specific Legislation/BSL (OCABSL)
94. Ottawa Dog Rescue
95. Ottawa Humane Society
96. Ottawa Kennel Club
97. Owen Sound Animal Shelter

98. Parry Sound Animal Hospital
99. Peterborough Humane Society and Animal Services
100. Pit Bulls Ontario
101. Pitbull Legalization – Ontario
102. Pitbull Tough
103. Precious Paws Rescue
104. Quinte Humane Society
105. Raw Performance Dog Food
106. Reform Advocates for Animal Welfare (RAAW)
107. Renfrew County Animal Centre
108. Rescue OP
109. Richland County Humane Society
110. The Ruff House Dog Daycare and Training Facility
111. Sarnia & District SPCA
112. Save Ontario's "Pit Bull"
113. Simcoe and District Humane Society
114. Sit Pretty Grooming Salon
115. Sit Pretty Pit Rescue Society
116. Sit With Me
117. SPCA Fort Erie
118. St Thomas - Elgin Animal Shelter
119. The Staffordshire Bull Terrier Club of Canada
120. Stop K9 Profiling – End BSL
121. Stormont Dundas and Glengarry Humane Society
122. Stormont Dundas and Glengarry Dog Association
123. Stratford Perth Humane Society
124. Sudbury and District Animal Centre
125. Thunder Bay & District Humane Society
126. Timmins & District Humane Society
127. TLC Groomers
128. Toronto Humane Society
129. Tyson n' Friends
130. United Paws
131. Upper Credit Humane Society
132. Wag and Walk Training
133. Wagtime Kennels
134. Whitby Animal Services
135. Wild Carnivore Raw
136. Windsor Essex County Humane Society

ANNEX 3: LIST OF REPEALS OF BREED SPECIFIC LEGISLATION IN MUNICIPALITIES ACROSS NORTH AMERICA (2016 – PRESENT)

2023

11/2023 [Bracken County, Kentucky](#)
10/2023 [Watertown, Tennessee](#)
10/2023 [Bluefield, West Virginia](#)
10/2023 [Gross Pointe Shores, Michigan](#)
10/2023 [Louisville, Colorado](#)
9/2023 [Girard, Ohio](#)
9/2023 Paullina, Iowa
8/2023 [Augusta, Kansas](#)
8/2023 [Seymour, Missouri](#)
8/2023 [Troy, Missouri](#)
7/2023 [Lake Arthur, Louisiana](#)
6/2023 [Maysville, Kentucky](#)
6/2023 [State of Florida](#), which includes as estimated 40 cities and towns!
6/2023 [Independence, Missouri](#)
6/2023 [Miami-Dade, Florida](#)
4/2023 [State of Iowa](#)
4/2023 [Ulysses, Kansas](#)
3/2023 [Muskegon, Michigan](#)
2/2023 Russellville, Arkansas

2022

11/2022 Estill Springs, Tennessee
9/2022 [Minot City, North Dakota](#)
9/2022 [Dardanelle, Arkansas](#)
8/2022 [Excelsior Springs, Missouri](#)
7/2022 [Alma, New Brunswick \(Canada\)](#)
6/2022 [Louisburg, Kansas](#)
6/2022 [Lachute, Quebec \(Canada\)](#)
5/2022 [Muscatine, Iowa](#)
5/2022 [Chillicothe, Missouri](#)
4/2022 [Middleburg Heights, Ohio](#)
4/2022 [Manchester, Tennessee](#)

3/2022 [Trenton, Missouri](#)

1/2022 [Parsons, Kansas](#)

2021

12/2021 [Abilene, Kansas](#)

10/2012 Salaberry de Valleyfield, Quebec (Canada)

09/2021 [Ann Arbor, Michigan](#)

09/2021 [Overland Park, Kansas](#)

07/2021 [Greensburg, Kansas](#)

07/2021 [Oconomowoc, Wisconsin](#)

07/2021 [Dayton, Kentucky](#)

07/2012 [St Eustache, Quebec \(Canada\)](#) (French only)

06/2021 [Lone Tree, Colorado](#)

05/2021 [Prescott City, Arkansas](#)

4/2021 [Maumelle, Arkansas](#)

2/2021 [Liberal City, Kansas](#)

2/2021 [Nanaimo, British Columbia \(Canada\)](#)

2/2021 [Shrewsbury, Missouri](#)

1/2021 [Commerce City, Colorado](#)

1/2021 [Aurora, Colorado](#)

2020

12/2020 [Andover, Kansas](#)

12/2020 [Pasco, Washington](#)

11/2020 [Fort Scott, Kansas](#)

11/2020 [Denver, Colorado](#)

10/2020 [Gatineau, Quebec](#) (Canada)

9/2020 [Cathlamet, Washington](#)

8/2020 [Chardon, Ohio](#)

7/2020 [Val D'Or, Quebec](#) (Canada)

4/2020 [Notre Dame de L'Ile Perrot, Quebec](#) (Canada)

4/2020 [Drummondville, Quebec](#) (Canada)

3/2020 Rouyn-Noranda, Quebec (Canada)

3/2020 Lasarre, Quebec (Canada)

3/2020 Amos, Quebec (Canada)

2/2020 [Sarcoxié, Montana](#)

2/2020 [Prairie Village, Kansas](#)

2/2020 [DeWitt, Arkansas](#)

2/2020 [Junction City, Kansas](#)

1/1/2020 [State of Washington](#) (see also Appleton's [House Bill 1026](#))

2019

11/27/2019 [Everett, Washington](#)

11/2019 [Sugar Creek, Montana](#)

11/25/2019 [Sioux City, Iowa](#)

11/5/2019 [Kennewick, Washington](#)

11/4/2019 [Maquoketa Iowa](#)

10/28/2019 [University City, Missouri](#)

10/2019 [Village of South Point, Ohio](#)

10/2019 [Fenton, Louisiana](#)

9/2019 [Kosciusko, Mississippi](#)

8/2019 [Cudahy, Wisconsin](#)

8/2019 [Yorkville, Wisconsin](#)

7/2019 [Enumclaw, WA](#)

7/24/2019 [Highland Heights, Ohio](#)

6/2019 [Saguenay Quebec, Canada](#)

5/30/2019 [Kansas City, Kansas](#) and [Wyandotte County, Kansas](#)

5/15/2019 [Cabot, Arkansas](#)

4/25/2019 [Willoughby Hills, Ohio](#)

4/1/2019 [Ludlow, Kentucky](#)

4/2019 [Barry, Illinois](#)

4/2019 [Cabot, Arkansas](#)

3/2019 [Ludlow, Kentucky](#)

4/2019 [Liberty, Montana](#)

3/22/2019 [North Cowichan British Columbia \(Canada\)](#)

3/22/2019 [Vancouver Island, British Columbia \(Canada\)](#)

3/19/2019 [Eureka, Montana](#)

3/15/2019 [Fort Lupton, Colorado](#)

3/7/2019 [Gardendale, Alabama](#)

1/2019 [Garfield Heights, Ohio](#)

1/2019 [Fort Lupton, Colorado](#)

2018

12/2018 [Mentor on the Lake, Ohio](#)
12/2018 [Rocky River, Ohio](#)
11/2018 [Concordia, Kansas](#)
11/2018 [Action Vale, Quebec \(Canada\)](#)
8/2018 [Montreal, Quebec \(Canada\)](#)
8/2018 [Yakima, Washington](#)
8/2018 [Springfield, Montana](#)
7/2018 [Puerto Rico](#)
5/21/2018 [Pratt, Kansas](#)
5/1/2018 [Castle Rock, Colorado](#)
4/23/2018 [Eudora, Kansas](#)
4/2018 [Beloit, Kansas](#)
4/2018 [Marceline, Montana](#)
3/2018 [Anamosa, Iowa](#)
3/2018 [Lakewood, Ohio](#)
3/12/2018 [Ironton, Montana](#)
2/2018 [Reynoldsburg, Ohio](#) (also see [here](#))
2/2018 [Hastings, Michigan](#)
1/2018 [Libby, Montana](#)
1/2018 [New Albany, Ohio](#)
1/2018 [Burden, Kansas](#)
1/2018 [Bermuda](#)

2017

12/2017 [Somerset, Wisconsin](#)
11/2017 [Prince George, British Columbia \(Canada\)](#)
11/2017 [Mansfield, Ohio](#)
9/2017 [Sunbury, Ohio](#)
8/2017 [Chateauguay, Quebec \(Canada\)](#)
8/2017 [Union Grove, Wisconsin](#)
8/2017 [Merrillville, Indiana](#)
8/2017 [Dublin, Ohio](#)
8/2017 [Beaver Dam, Kentucky](#)
7/2017 [South Milwaukee, Wisconsin](#) (see also [here](#))

6/2017 [State of Delaware](#) (see also [House Bill 13](#))
6/2017 [Tamarac, Florida](#)
5/2017 [The County of Grande Prairie, Alberta \(Canada\)](#)
4/2017 [Payette, Idaho](#) (see also [here](#))
3/2017 [The Florissant, Montana](#)
1/2017 [Chipman, New Brunswick \(Canada\)](#)
1/2017 [Purdy, Montana](#)

2016

12/2016 [Fruitland, Idaho](#)
11/2016 [Bexley, Ohio](#)
11/2016 [Cameron, Missouri](#)
9/2016 [Buckner, Montana](#)
8/2016 [Tonganoxie, Kansas](#)
7/2016 [Richmond, Montana](#)
6/2016 [Veaudreuil, Quebec \(Canada\)](#)
5/2016 [Arizona](#)
4/2016 [Ashland, Missouri](#)
4/2016 [Newark, Ohio](#)

ADDITIONAL CANADIAN REPEALS

2014 Sherbrooke, Quebec (Canada)
Date unknown - Val Morin, Quebec (Canada)
Date unknown - Chambly, Quebec (Canada)
Date unknown - Val David, Quebec (Canada)
Date unknown - Morin Heights, Quebec (Canada)
Date unknown - Ste. Adele, Quebec (Canada)
Date unknown - Prevost, Quebec (Canada)
Date unknown - Tremblant, Quebec (Canada)
Date unknown - Brownsburg-Chatham, Quebec (Canada)
Date unknown - Mascouche, Quebec (Canada)
Date unknown - Grenville, Quebec (Canada)
Date unknown - Lotbiniere, Quebec (Canada)
Date unknown - Rimouski, Quebec (Canada)

ANNEX 4: CANADA'S FATAL DOG BITES: 1962 - PRESENT

CANADA DOG BITE FATALITIES 1962 - Present

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

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

27-Nov-99	Mixed breeds	Pack	5 yrs - F	Cecilia Alook	Loose, possibly starving dogs	Alberta		
27-Jan-03	Rottweiler & Lab X	2	4 yrs - F	Kyra - Lee Sibthorpe	Visiting Stepfather - his dogs	Ontario		
1-Mar-03	Rottweilers	3	4 yrs - M	James Waddell	Visiting with Father at house. Father's dogs.	New Brunswick		
13-Oct-03	German Shepherd X	4	3 yrs - M	Travis Colomb	At Grandmother's house. Killed by 4 of 15 dogs at residence. Chain broken.	Manitoba		
27-Dec-04	Rottweilers & Border Collie	2 to 4	3 yrs - M	Cody John Anger	Family Rottweiler & Collie. 2 visiting Rottweilers on property were released from basement and attacked child in living room	Port Coquitlam, BC	Coroner Inquest	
ONTARIO PUTS IN PROVINCIAL BREED BAN TARGETING 3 SPECIFIC BREEDS: American Staffordshire Terrier, American Pit Bull Terrier, and Staffordshire Bull Terrier								
30-May-06	Jack Russell/Border Collie X OR Lab/Pit Bull cross <i>Official label by the animal behavior expert as Mix breed</i>	1	77 yrs - M	John Martin	Dog attacked owner in yard. Man playfully pushed wife and dog bit the man's throat. <i>Caveat: The true identification/breed of the dog was impossible to delineate, other than the fact that it was a mixed breed, as confirmed in court testimony in 2006 by the animal behavior expert who assessed the situation on behalf of the Ontario coroner's office. The dog was officially labeled as a mixed breed, due to lack of DNA evidence and impossibility of accurate or reliable visual identification.</i>	Ontario		
15-Jun-06	Husky X	2	3 yrs - M	Rory Clipping	Attacked by dogs on reserve. Dogs were owned, not strays	Manitoba		
27-Jul-06	Mixed (Husky Xs)	2	2 yrs - M	Derian Bird	Wandered to chained/loose dogs.	Manitoba		
16-Nov-06	Mixed breeds	5	5 yrs - M	Lance Ribbonleg	Loose, roaming dogs on road	Alberta		
18-Jan-07	Pack strays	5	5 yrs - M	Unknown	Attacked near home by strays	Saskatchewan		
1-Jul-07	Rottweiler/ Shepherd X	1	17 mo - F	Korie Lyn Edwards	Grandparent's tied dog	Ontario		
20-Jan-10	Mixed breed strays	2 to 4	9 yrs - M	Keith Checkosis Iron	Loose, roaming and neglected dogs.	Candle Lake Cree Nation Saskatchewan	Coroner Report	Coroner suggested 1st priority to be early childhood education, followed by licensing and culling strays
22-Mar-10	Sled type dogs	3	4 yrs - M	Samock Akpalialuk	Resident dogs escaped from confinement and chains	Nunavut		
25-Mar-11	N/A	<1	Adult Male	Unknown	Had previous tiny cut on hand. Bitten by dog while separating 2 dogs at park on Mar 23rd and got a Sepsis Infection.	Vancouver, BC	Coroner Report	#0278-0114

6-Jun-11	Huskys	2	21 days - F	M. Trembley-Beaulieu	Baby left alone in kitchen with several dogs. Coroner's sole recommendation was preventive education	Quebec	Coroner Report	
21-Aug-11	Husky Mixes	2	1 yr - F	Flora Francis	Mosquito First Nation. 1 year old wandered into dog's yard.	Saskatchewan		
16-Feb-12	Husky	1	Newborn - M	Grayson Fradette	Baby in crib, dog in crate. Baby cried and dog got loose and killed baby. Maybe trying to move the child.	Alberta		
1-Jan-13	Stray dog or dogs (no breed identified)	1 or more	15 - M	Leon Anderson	Loose roaming dogs 550 km NE of Winnipeg near God's Lake	1st Nation, Alberta		
11-Jul-13	Boxer Cross	1	Adult Male	Unknown	Slept with dog. Coroner's report suggests facial bite triggered by man's seizures. Died from Sepsis infection within days.	B.C.		
17-Mar-14	Malamutes	2	7 yrs - F	Gracie Hernitier - Clark	Circumstances unclear. Visiting family friends.	Manitoba		
14-Jun-14	Husky/Sled dog type	1	4 yrs - F	Sheena Uqaituk	Child approached neighbor's chained dog.	Quebec		
17-Oct-15	Pack of Northern dogs	4	22 yrs - M	Shane Glada	Killed and eaten by pack of dogs while walking.	Yukon		
22-Oct-15	Unknown	1	Adult Male	Unknown	Superficial bite Oct 18 from a family member's dog which became infected. Died 3 days later from a Sepsis infection.	BC	Coroner Report	Case #2015-1021-0027
30-Jan-16	Mixed breed	1	78 yrs - F	Kathleen Green	Attacked in backyard by a chained dog who was tied up to neighbor's mobile home. Killed while attempting to feed dog.	BC	Coroner Report	
27-Mar-16	Unknown	2	Adult Female	Unknown	Bit on foot by dog March 23. Dogs were fighting over a bone. Died 4 days later from Sepsis infection.	BC	Coroner Report	Case #2016-0562-0006
6-Jun-16	Northern dog	1	4 yrs - F	Unknown	Child approached neighbor's chained dog.	Nunavut		
16-Jun-16	Reg as Boxer mix. Police said Pit Bull	1	55 yrs - F	Christine Vadnais	Dog "Lucifer" broke out of his yard and attacked victim while sunbathing in her yard. 2 previous attacks on record. See CI.	Montreal, Quebec	Coroner Inquest	
13-May-17	Northern mixed breeds	30	24 yrs - F	Donnelly Rose Eaglestick	Found dead at water treatment plant surrounded by 30 dogs	Manitoba		
13-Sep-17	Alaskan Malamutes	2	6 yrs - M	Cameron Mushanski	Killed by Grandparent's dogs. Coroner has a ongoing investigation.	Saskatchewan		
15-Sep-18	Boxer Cross	1	50 yrs - F	Lisa Lloyds	Killed by chained dog in her back yard.	Chestermere, AB		

23-Sep-19	Northern mixed breeds	2	2 yrs - M	unknown	killed by wild northern type dogs who were circling the area looking for food	Gods Lake, MB	
9-Jun-20	American Bully mix	1	38 yrs - F	Megan Milner	Victim was killed while walking her dog in early morning in rural area. Medical Examiner could only conclude that her injuries were caused by an animal, and were inconclusive as to whether it was a dog or another animal.	Musquodoboit Valley, NS	
29-Jun-20	Pit Bull Mix	1	~30 - M	unknown	Media reported the dog as a "pit bull" however breed was not confirmed prior to euthanasia. Dog was new to the home and the owner was out at the time of the incident. Victim was one of multiple visitors left alone with the dog in an unfamiliar environment.	Kamloops, BC	in progress (Jul 2020)
1-Apr-21	Large Dogs (no breed is confirmed)	3	17 - F	Megan Fisher	3 dogs entered the property of the victim in Thames First Nation in Middlesex County, Ontario. Investigation into the death is ongoing.	Middlesex County, ON	
1-Jun-22	Mixed Breed Large dogs	2	43-M	Noel Thomas	Neighbors dogs charged him while mowing the lawn	Witchekan Lake First Nation, Saskatchewan	
5-Jun-22	American Staffordshire Terrier Mix	3	86-F	Betty Ann Williams	3 dogs entered her back yard and attacked her	Calgary, AB	
5-Mar-24	Large Mixed Breeds	3	5-M	Avery	Child was unsupervised playing in his yard when 3 of his the reservations dogs where he lived entered the yard and fatally attacked him.	Whitefish Lake First Nation, Naughton, Alberta	
6-Jun-23	Large Mixed Breeds	1	76-F	Jean Lilly Elizabeth Cluckie	Dog was known as "highly aggressive" and attacked 3 people. 2 victims suffered minor injury and the 3rd victim passed away 10 days later. Police attempted to subdue dog but were required to shoot it for safety reasons	Burlington, Ontario	

ANNEX 5: RESULTS OF THE VOTE FOR BILL 16 IN 2012

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

AYE	NDP	Sarah	Campbell	Ms. Sarah Campbell	Kenora--Rainy River	scfort@vianet.ca
AYE	NDP	Cheri	DiNovo	Ms. Cheri DiNovo	Parkdale--High Park	dinovoc-qp@ndp.on.ca
AYE	NDP	Cindy	Forster	Ms. Cindy Forster	Welland	cforster-qp@ndp.on.ca
AYE	NDP	Andrea	Horwath	Ms. Andrea Horwath	Hamilton Centre	ahorwath-qp@ndp.on.ca
AYE	NDP	Michael	Mantha	Mr. Michael Mantha	Algoma--Manitoulin	mmantha-qp@ndp.on.ca
AYE	NDP	Rosario	Marchese	Mr. Rosario Marchese	Trinity--Spadina	rmarchese-co@ndp.on.ca
AYE	NDP	Paul	Miller	Mr. Paul Miller	Hamilton East--Stoney Creek	pmiller-qp@ndp.on.ca
AYE	NDP	Taras	Natyshak	Mr. Taras Natyshak	Essex	tnatyshak-qp@ndp.on.ca
AYE	NDP	Michael	Prue	Mr. Michael Prue	Beaches--East York	mprue-qp@ndp.on.ca
AYE	NDP	Jonah	Schein	Mr. Jonah Schein	Davenport	jschein-qp@ndp.on.ca
AYE	NDP	Jagmeet	Singh	Mr. Jagmeet Singh	Bramalea--Gore--Malton	jsingh-qp@ndp.on.ca
AYE	NDP	Peter	Tabuns	Mr. Peter Tabuns	Toronto--Danforth	tabunsp-qp@ndp.on.ca
AYE	NDP	Monique	Taylor	Ms. Monique Taylor	Hamilton Mountain	mtaylor-qp@ndp.on.ca
AYE	NDP	John	Vanthof	Mr. John Vanthof	Timiskaming--Cochrane	jvanthof-qp@ndp.on.ca
AYE	PC	Ted	Arnott	Mr. Ted Arnott	Wellington--Halton Hills	ted.arnott@pc.ola.org
AYE	PC	Robert	Bailey	Mr. Robert Bailey	Sarnia--Lambton	bob.bailey@pc.ola.org
AYE	PC	Toby	Barrett	Mr. Toby Barrett	Haldimand--Norfolk	toby.barrett@pc.ola.org
AYE	PC	Ted	Chudleigh	Mr. Ted Chudleigh	Halton	ted.chudleigh@pc.ola.org
AYE	PC	Steve	Clark	Mr. Steve Clark	Leeds--Grenville	steve.clark@pc.ola.org
AYE	PC	Garfield	Dunlop	Mr. Garfield Dunlop	Simcoe North	garfield.dunlop@pc.ola.org
AYE	PC	Christine	Elliott	Ms. Christine Elliott	Whitby--Oshawa	christine.elliott@pc.ola.org
AYE	PC	Victor	Fedeli	Mr. Victor Fedeli	Nipissing	vic.fedeli@pc.ola.org
AYE	PC	Ernie	Hardeman	Mr. Ernie Hardeman	Oxford	ernie.hardeman@pc.ola.org
AYE	PC	Michael	Harris	Mr. Michael Harris	Kitchener--Conestoga	michael.harris@pc.ola.org
AYE	PC	Randy	Hillier	Mr. Randy Hillier	Lanark--Frontenac--Lennox and Addington	randy.hillierco@pc.ola.org
AYE	PC	Tim	Hudak	Mr. Tim Hudak	Niagara West--Glanbrook	tim.hudakco@pc.ola.org
AYE	PC	Rod	Jackson	Mr. Rod Jackson	Barrie	rod.jackson@pc.ola.org
AYE	PC	Sylvia	Jones	Ms. Sylvia Jones	Dufferin--Caledon	sylvia.jones@pc.ola.org
AYE	PC	Frank	Klees	Mr. Frank Klees	Newmarket--Aurora	frank.klees@pc.ola.org
AYE	PC	Rob	Leone	Mr. Rob Leone	Cambridge	rob.leone@pc.ola.org
AYE	PC	Jack	MacLaren	Mr. Jack MacLaren	Carleton--Mississippi Mills	jack.maclaren@pc.ola.org
AYE	PC	Jim	McDonell	Mr. Jim McDonell	Stormont--Dundas--South Glengarry	jim.mcdonell@pc.ola.org
AYE	PC	Jane	McKenna	Ms. Jane McKenna	Burlington	jane.mckenna@pc.ola.org
AYE	PC	Monte	McNaughton	Mr. Monte McNaughton	Lambton--Kent--Middlesex	monte.mcnaughton@pc.ola.org
AYE	PC	Rob E.	Milligan	Mr. Rob E. Milligan	Northumberland--Quinte West	rob.milligan@pc.ola.org
AYE	PC	Julia	Munro	Ms. Julia Munro	York--Simcoe	julia.munro@pc.ola.org
AYE	PC	Rick	Nicholls	Mr. Rick Nicholls	Chatham--Kent--Essex	rick.nicholls@pc.ola.org
AYE	PC	John	O'Toole	Mr. John O'Toole	Durham	john.otooleco@pc.ola.org
AYE	PC	Jerry J.	Ouellette	Mr. Jerry J. Ouellette	Oshawa	jerry.ouellette@pc.ola.org
AYE	PC	Laurie	Scott	Ms. Laurie Scott	Haliburton--Kawartha Lakes--Brock	laurie.scott@pc.ola.org
AYE	PC	Peter	Shurman	Mr. Peter Shurman	Thornhill	peter.shurman@pc.ola.org
AYE	PC	Todd	Smith	Mr. Todd Smith	Prince Edward--Hastings	todd.smith@pc.ola.org

AYE	PC	Lisa M.	Thompson	Ms. Lisa M. Thompson	Huron--Bruce	lisa.thompson@pc.ola.org
AYE	PC	Bill	Walker	Mr. Bill Walker	Bruce--Grey--Owen Sound	bill.walker@pc.ola.org
AYE	PC	Jim	Wilson	Mr. Jim Wilson	Simcoe--Grey	jim.wilson@pc.ola.org
AYE	PC	Jeff	Yurek	Mr. Jeff Yurek	Elgin--Middlesex--London	jeff.yurek@pc.ola.org
NAY	LIB	Lorenzo	Berardinetti	Mr. Lorenzo Berardinetti	Scarborough Southwest	lberardinetti.mpp@liberal.ola.org
NAY	LIB	James J.	Bradley	Hon Mr. James J. Bradley	St. Catharines	jbradley.mpp@liberal.ola.org
NAY	LIB	Michael	Coteau	Mr. Michael Coteau	Don Valley East	mcoteau.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org
NAY	LIB	Dipika	Damerla	Ms. Dipika Damerla	Mississauga East--Cooksville	ddamerla.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org
NAY	LIB	Bob	Delaney	Mr. Bob Delaney	Mississauga--Streetsville	bdelaney.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org
NAY	LIB	Vic	Dhillon	Mr. Vic Dhillon	Brampton West	vdhillon.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org
NAY	LIB	Joe	Dickson	Mr. Joe Dickson	Ajax--Pickering	jdickson.mpp@liberal.ola.org
NAY	LIB	Brad	Duguid	Hon Mr. Brad Duguid	Scarborough Centre	bduguid.mpp@liberal.ola.org
NAY	LIB	Kevin Daniel	Flynn	Mr. Kevin Daniel Flynn	Oakville	kflynn.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org
NAY	LIB	Helena	Jaczek	Ms. Helena Jaczek	Oak Ridges--Markham	hjaczek.mpp@liberal.ola.org
NAY	LIB	Linda	Jeffrey	Hon Ms. Linda Jeffrey	Brampton--Springdale	ljeffrey.mpp@liberal.ola.org
NAY	LIB	Monte	Kwinter	Mr. Monte Kwinter	York Centre	mkwinter.mpp@liberal.ola.org
NAY	LIB	Jeff	Leal	Mr. Jeff Leal	Peterborough	jleal.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org
NAY	LIB	Tracy	MacCharles	Ms. Tracy MacCharles	Pickering--Scarborough East	tmaccharles.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org
NAY	LIB	Amrit	Mangat	Ms. Amrit Mangat	Mississauga--Brampton South	amangat.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org
NAY	LIB	Ted	McMeekin	Hon Mr. Ted McMeekin	Ancaster--Dundas--Flamborough--Westdale	tmcmeekin.mpp@liberal.ola.org
NAY	LIB	Reza	Moridi	Ms. Reza Moridi	Richmond Hill	rmoridi.mpp@liberal.ola.org
NAY	LIB	Glen R.	Murray	Hon Mr. Glen R. Murray	Toronto Centre	gmurray.mpp@liberal.ola.org
NAY	LIB	Yasir	Naqvi	Mr. Yasir Naqvi	Ottawa Centre	ynaqvi.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org
NAY	LIB	Teresa	Piruzza	Ms. Teresa Piruzza	Windsor West	tpiruzza.mpp@liberal.ola.org
NAY	LIB	Shafiq	Qaadri	Mr. Shafiq Qaadri	Etobicoke North	sqaadri.mpp@liberal.ola.org
NAY	LIB	Mario	Sergio	Mr. Mario Sergio	York West	msergio.mpp@liberal.ola.org
NAY	LIB	Charles	Sousa	Hon Mr. Charles Sousa	Mississauga South	csousa.mpp@liberal.ola.org
NAY	LIB	Soo	Wong	Ms. Soo Wong	Scarborough--Agincourt	swong.mpp@liberal.ola.org
NAY	LIB	Kathleen O	Wynne	H. Ms. Kathleen O. Wynne	Don Valley West	kwynne.mpp@liberal.ola.org
NAY	LIB	David	Zimmer	Mr. David Zimmer	Willowdale	dzimmer.mpp@liberal.ola.org

ANNEX 6: DOG BITE PREVENTION CHILDREN'S EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Program available in its entirety in English and French by visiting <https://ontariocoalitionagainstbsl.com/dog-bite-prevention-month>. Limited Spanish content available as well.

Educational interactive videos are currently available on the website in English only.

Annual Dog Bite Prevention Program for Children

A comprehensive guide for parents, teachers, and students for safe
dog practices in the communities

Presented by the Ontario Coalition Against BSL © 2022



PROGRAM NUMBER 1:
DOG BITE PREVENTION FOR CHILDREN

DOG BITE PREVENTION FOR CHILDREN

TOP 10 WAYS TO STAY SAFE AROUND DOGS

- 🐾 Do NOT approach an unfamiliar or unattended dog
- 🐾 Never run away from a dog and scream
- 🐾 If you are approached by an unfamiliar dog, remain motionless:
“be a tree”
- 🐾 If you are knocked over by a dog, roll tightly into a ball and lie still:
“be a ball”
- 🐾 Do not play with a dog unless supervised by an adult
- 🐾 Never corner, crowd, or stand over a dog – this can scare them!
- 🐾 Avoid direct eye contact and NEVER put your face in a dog’s face
- 🐾 Do not disturb a dog who is sleeping, eating, or caring for puppies
- 🐾 Do not pet a dog without allowing it to see and sniff you first
- 🐾 If bitten, immediately report the bite to an adult

These simple steps will help keep you safe around dogs, and will also help prevent dog bites to you, your friends, your family, and your community!

REMEMBER: All dogs are unique and have different tolerance levels for many things, including play. Ask an adult you trust to help teach you safe dog behavior, and always remember to treat animals with respect and kindness!

For more information on dog bite prevention, please visit

www.ontariocoalitionagainstbsl.com

PROGRAM NUMBER 2:

LEARNING A DOG'S BODY LANGUAGE

(graphic for children and narrative for teachers/parents)

DOGGIE LANGUAGE

starring Boogie the Boston Terrier



ALERT



SUSPICIOUS



ANXIOUS



THREATENED



ANGRY



"PEACE!"
look away/head turn



STRESSED
yawn



STRESSED
nose lick



"PEACE!"
sniff ground



"RESPECT!"
turn & walk away



"NEED SPACE"
whale eye



STALKING



STRESSED
scratching



STRESS RELEASE
shake off



RELAXED
soft ears, blinky eyes



"RESPECT!"
offer his back



FRIENDLY & POLITE
curved body



FRIENDLY



"PRETTY PLEASE"
round puppy face



"I'M YOUR LOVEBUG"
belly-rub pose



"HELLO I LOVE YOU!"
greeting stretch



"I'M FRIENDLY!"
play bow



"READY!"
prey bow



"YOU WILL FEED ME"



CURIOUS
head tilt



HAPPY
(or hot)



OVERJOYED
wiggly



"MMMM...."



"I LOVE YOU,
DON'T STOP"

DOGGIE LANGUAGE

starring Boogie the Boston Terrier



© 2011 Lili Chin www.doggiedrawings.net

DOG BODY LANGUAGE

Dogs really can speak; all you need to do is learn their body language!

Teaching adults and children the subtle signs of stress or anxiety that can indicate a dog's discomfort can help prevent many dog related incidents, including dog bites. Since dogs can't tell us when they are uncomfortable, we must learn how to read their communication efforts through their body language. These signals can range from yawning to lip licking to a head turn, and are all warning signs prior to growls and bites.

Ensuring your child knows how to respect a dogs space and body language will help to ensure everyone's safety – children and dogs included. Just because one dog tolerates being crawled on or grabbed doesn't make it appropriate, safe, or fair for that dog, or any animal for that matter. Never allow your child to treat a dog like one of their toys. Children must be taught gentle touch, soft petting on the areas of the dog's body that the dog enjoys, and to always be respectful of the dog, no matter how familiar they are with the dog in question. Allow the dog to have a choice to end the interaction, and a space to retreat when they feel that they need a break from interactions, and one the child can not access.

Children must learn to respect dogs and all other animals. This is one way to help achieve safer, kinder communities for everyone!

Whether or not you own your own family dog, children **must** be taught how to behave around them. Even a friendly dog may bite if threatened, angry afraid, or hurt. Dogs protect things they care about, including their food, puppies, toys, or their owners. They also protect spaces – their space, as well as their family's space. Children need to understand that dogs are protective by nature – which is not a bad thing!! However, they still need to be taught to recognize situations that may frighten or anger a dog, and how to protect themselves in situations as such.



It is important for parents to never leave young children alone with a dog. While all families think they have the best dog (and we all DO have the best dog), this is one of the things that is the leading cause of dog bites in Canada. It is essential for parents to teach children not to fight with, tease, yell at, or chase their dogs. Kids and their parents should incorporate these lessons into daily life routines for safer, kinder communities for all.



PROGRAM NUMBER 3:

HOW TO SAFELY GREET A DOG

(graphic for children and narrative for teachers/parents)

HOW **NOT** TO GREET A DOG

*Most people do this stuff and it stresses dogs out so they BITE!
I don't care how cute you (or your kid) think Boogie is. Please show him some respect.*



DON'T
Lean over the dog & stick
your hand in his face



DON'T
Lean over the dog & stick
your hand on top of his head



DON'T
Grab or Hug him



DON'T
Stare him in the eye
(This is an adversarial gesture)



DON'T
Squeal or shout in his face



DON'T
Grab his head and kiss it
(This is an invasion of space)

Doing this to a dog who doesn't know you is like a perfect stranger giving you a great big hug and kiss in an elevator. Wouldn't that creep you out? And wouldn't you have the right to defend yourself?

THE CORRECT WAY:



- * No Eye contact
- * Let the dog approach you in his own time
- * Keep either your **SIDE** or **BACK** towards the dog (non-threatening posture)



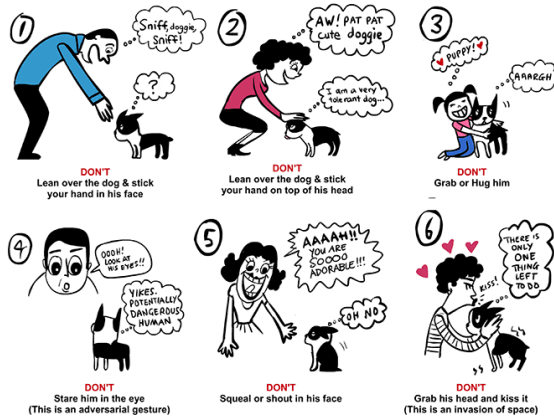
- * Pet or stroke him on the **SIDE** of his face or body. Or on his back.

THE TOP TEN DOG BITE PREVENTION TIPS FOR KIDS

- ❖ **Ask permission before petting a strange dog**
 - Always ask the dogs owner AND the dog
- ❖ **Set boundaries**
 - Don't interact with dogs when they are eating, playing with a toy, caring for their puppies, or sleeping
- ❖ **Be a tree**
 - Dogs are excited by movement and noise. If you're approached by a strange dog stay still. Running around or making loud noises will likely excite the dog even more
- ❖ **Never climb into a dog's yard**
- ❖ **Don't hug, poke, or grab a dog**
- ❖ **Don't pull on a dog's ears, fur, or tail**
- ❖ **Don't climb on dogs**
 - Dogs are not toys; respect their space and do not climb on them or stem on them
- ❖ **Don't pet dogs behind fences or in cars**
- ❖ **Don't approach loose dogs**
- ❖ **Don't escalate situations**
 - You must never run, yell, or jump at dogs

HOW NOT TO GREET A DOG

Most people do this stuff and it stresses dogs out so they BITE!
I don't care how cute you (or your kid) think Boogie is. Please show him some respect.



Doing this to a dog who doesn't know you is like a perfect stranger giving you a great big hug and kiss in an elevator. Wouldn't that creep you out? And wouldn't you have the right to defend yourself?

THE CORRECT WAY:



www.doggedrawings.net Lili

Body Language of Fear in Dogs



Slight Cowering



Major Cowering

More Subtle Signs of Fear & Anxiety



Licking Lips
when no food nearby



Panting
when not hot or thirsty



Brows Furrowed, Ears to Side



Moving in Slow Motion
walking slow on floor



Acting Sleepy or Yawning
when they shouldn't be tired



Hypervigilant
looking in many directions



Suddenly Won't Eat
but was hungry earlier



Moving Away



Pacing

© 2011 Dr. Sophia Yin, DVM, MS

CANINE BODY LANGUAGE – SIGNS OF DISTRESS

Knowing a dog's basic body language signals can help identify potential problems **BEFORE** they arise. Dogs can bite out of frustration or fear, but both usually come with a fair share of warning signs.

Some of the most common signs of a stressed dog are:

- ❖ Raised fur on the back
- ❖ Cowering head or body
- ❖ Showing teeth
- ❖ Growling
- ❖ Lip licking
- ❖ Tail tucked between the legs
- ❖ Pacing
- ❖ Looking all around in different directions
- ❖ Ears lowering to the back of their head
- ❖ Moving away from the human

As responsible dog guardians, we must model appropriate behavior around dogs. Even dog savvy adults can throw good judgement out the window, especially around cute puppies. Remember that children are always watching and cuing off our behavior in every situation. It is very important that adults always follow safe and appropriate behaviors around dogs. This includes limiting kissing or hugging a dog, which is a very difficult task for adults as well as children. We love to hug and feel close to those we care about, but dogs don't show affection in the same ways. It is important to teach our children that there are other safer ways to show dogs how much they love them!

PROGRAM NUMBER 4:
INTERACTIVE CHILDREN'S EDUCATION
ACTIVITY BOOKLET



Dog Safety and Awareness for Children

An interactive guide
on how to prevent
dog bites and keep
children in the
community safe
around their dogs,
and dogs they don't
know.



SAFETY AND AWARENESS AROUND YOUR DOG OR AROUND A DOG YOU DON'T KNOW

DOG SAFETY TIP #1

WHAT **SHOULD** YOU DO AROUND A DOG
YOU DON'T KNOW?



- Always ask the owner AND the dog permission to pet him
- Always keep your face away from a strange dog
- Always report anyone you see being cruel towards any animal
- Always be gentle and treat the dog with kindness so he knows you are a friend
- Always listen to signals from the dog; remember they can't speak to you any other way!

REMEMBER!

Your dog is part of the family. He is happiest when he is with you! Make sure to include him in your big events and make him feel special!



ontario coalition Against BSL



Taking the BS out of Breed Specific Legislation

Be kind to your pets, and they will love you
forever!



DOG SAFETY TIP #2

WHAT SHOULD YOU **NOT** DO AROUND A DOG YOU DON'T KNOW?

- Never hug or pet a dog you don't know
- Never approach a dog when he is playing with a bone
- Never disturb a dog when he is sleeping or eating
- Never approach a dog with her puppies, alone in a car, from the other side of the fence, or tied up outside
- Never squeeze or grab a dog

THERE IS NEVER AN EXCUSE FOR ANIMAL CRUELTY!

Dogs have feelings too! You must never hit, kick, or shout at your dog. You must also never pull their ears or tail – remember they LOVE you!!



If you ever see someone
being cruel to their dog, go
to an adult that you trust
and tell them right away!!!



My Dog, My Family!!

For more information, please visit:

www.ontariocoalitionagainstbsl.com

or

<https://supportersheybill.com>



Dog Safety and Education Activity Booklet



Word Search

T	D	S	V	W	I	D	G	K	C	B	O	N	E	H
R	M	S	B	C	A	O	G	I	N	A	D	E	L	J
A	D	O	E	X	H	G	E	N	T	L	E	O	S	A
I	J	C	D	F	W	I	Z	D	N	L	C	K	L	F
N	K	I	L	R	A	S	I	N	H	D	F	X	E	C
I	F	A	M	I	L	Y	S	E	B	S	K	I	D	S
N	X	L	Q	F	K	Y	Q	S	G	A	J	Y	L	K
G	B	I	V	P	V	T	O	S	O	F	N	K	M	P
A	M	Z	E	D	G	J	R	H	L	E	A	S	H	E
W	F	E	T	C	H	U	I	P	U	T	M	V	N	T
P	R	N	W	A	N	P	F	T	O	Y	T	L	O	S
U	I	O	U	R	Q	E	T	Y	J	P	S	D	Q	U
P	E	D	X	R	E	S	P	O	N	S	I	B	L	E
P	N	B	C	I	R	W	A	M	E	R	A	C	S	X
Y	D	Z	F	D	K	T	R	E	A	T	S	T	V	Z
A	S	G	H	E	I	L	K	P	L	A	Y	F	U	L

Can you find all the words on the list?

Puppy	Friends
Playful	Safety
Treats	Kids
Leash	Socialize
Training	Toy
Bone	Pets
Park	Car Ride
Walk	Fetch
Dog	Ball
Family	Kindness

True or False

Just like people, dogs have feelings:	<input type="checkbox"/> True	<input type="checkbox"/> False
It's OK to not take your dog for a walk:	<input type="checkbox"/> True	<input type="checkbox"/> False
It's best to leave your dog alone while he is eating:	<input type="checkbox"/> True	<input type="checkbox"/> False
You should always ask to pet a strange dog:	<input type="checkbox"/> True	<input type="checkbox"/> False
It is safe to leave your dog in a hot car:	<input type="checkbox"/> True	<input type="checkbox"/> False
Your dog is a part of your family:	<input type="checkbox"/> True	<input type="checkbox"/> False
It is never OK to be mean to your dog:	<input type="checkbox"/> True	<input type="checkbox"/> False
It is a good idea to take away a toy from your dog:	<input type="checkbox"/> True	<input type="checkbox"/> False

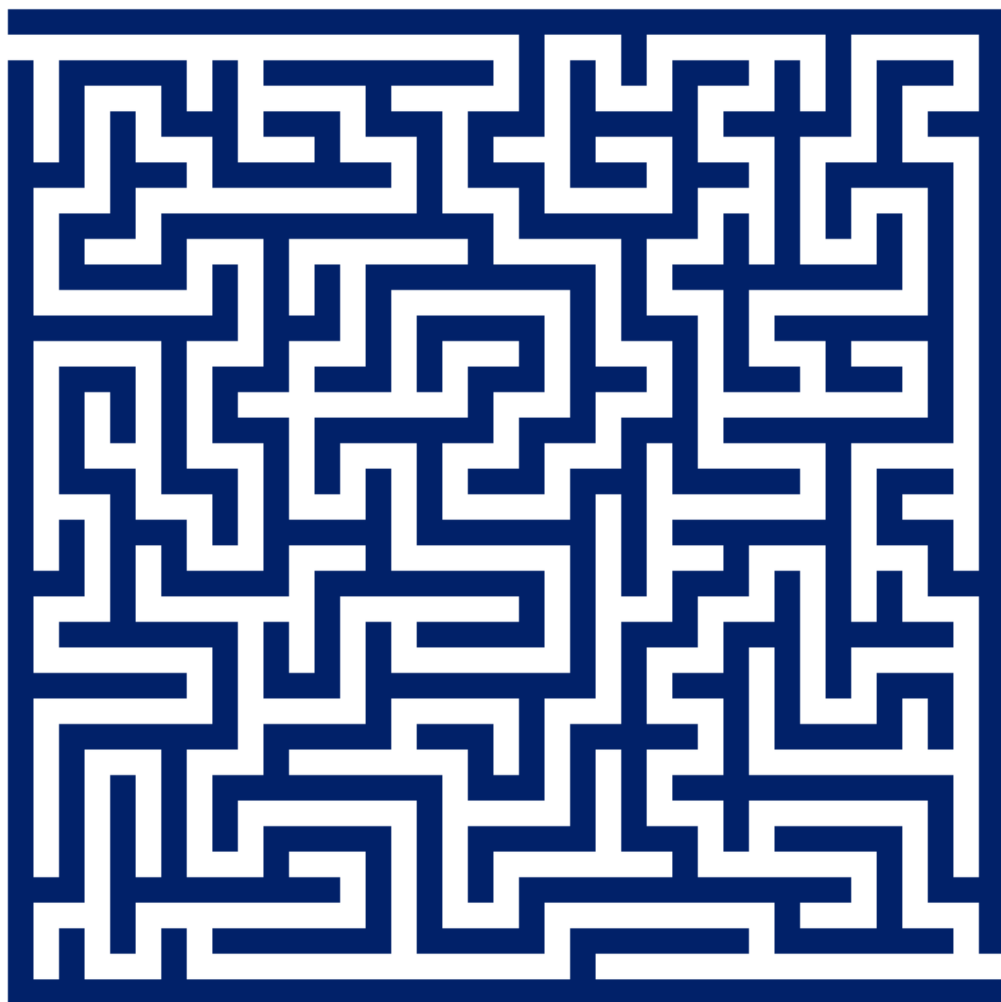


Multiple Choice

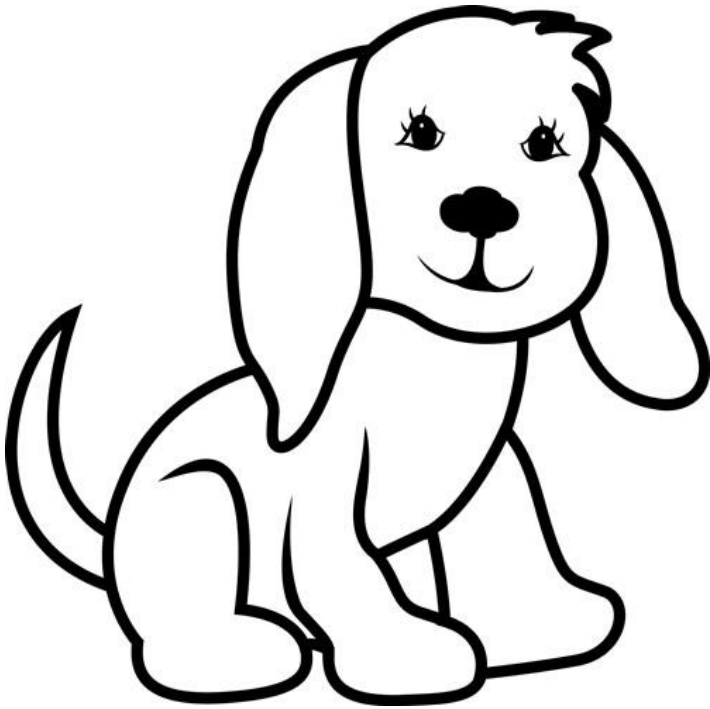
- What is a good way to help prevent being bitten by a dog you don't know?
 - Brush your teeth before bed
 - Keep your face away from a strange dog's face
 - Help your mom with the dishes
 - Play with a dog through a fence where he can't see you

2. How can you help keep your dog healthy and happy?
 - a. Take him for a walk every day so he gets exercise
 - b. Go for a bike ride with your friends
 - c. Play a video game with your neighbor
 - d. Feed him extra treats every day
3. If you are approached by a strange or scary dog, what should you do?
 - a. Run away as fast as you can
 - b. Try to feed him some of your lunch
 - c. Try to pet the dog, even if he is growling at you
 - d. Be a tree and stand as still and tall as you can, slowly backing away from a dog while talking calmly
4. When is it a good idea to leave your dog alone for some quiet time?
 - a. When he is playing with a bone
 - b. When he is sleeping or eating
 - c. Never – your dog never needs alone time
 - d. Both (a) and (b)
5. What are some good ways to help protect your dog and make him feel safe and loved?
 - a. Including him in special events with your family
 - b. Taking him to the vet for check ups
 - c. Being gentle and kind when playing with him
 - d. All of the above!

Can You Help Reunite the Dog With His Lost Bone?

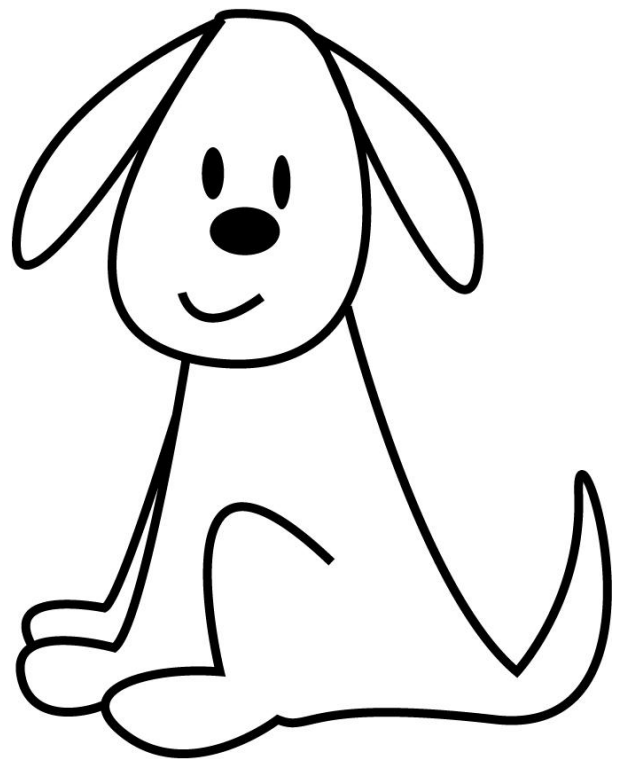


A Happy, Healthy Dog Will Be Your Best Friend For Life!



Dogs are family. They love you, care for you, are always happy to see you, and protect you from those pesky squirrels and blowing leaves...

A dog will be your best friend no matter what... remember that YOU can have many best friends, but your dog only has ONE!



Fill In The Blanks

1. One of the best ways for me to keep my dog safe in public is to walk him on a _____.
2. I will keep my dog healthy by feeding him nutritious food and taking him to his _____ every year for a check up.
3. My favorite thing about my dog is _____.
4. My favorite thing to do with my dog is _____.
5. The funniest thing my dog does is _____.



**DOG SAFETY IS
EVERYONE'S
BUSINESS!**

**LET'S ALL DO OUR PART TO KEEP
OUR DOGS AND OUR
COMMUNITIES SAFE!**

PROGRAM NUMBER 5:
RESPONSIBLE OWNERSHIP PRACTICES FOR PARENTS

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE BEST WAYS TO PREVENT DOG BITES?

Understanding why dogs bite in the first place is one of the best and easiest ways to prevent dogs from biting at all! While there are many reasons, it is almost always as a defensive reaction to a situation that is making them uncomfortable. Some of the most common reasons for dogs to bite are:

- The dog finds itself in a stressful situation and seeks to defend itself or it's property
- They are scared or startled by something
- They feel threatened
- They want to protect something of value to them (e.g. their puppies, their food, their toys, etc.)
- They aren't feeling well or have been injured (e.g. illness or recent surgery)

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PREVENT DOG BITES?

Socialize Your Dog:

- This is one of the best ways to help prevent your dog from biting and feel at ease in different situations outside your home. It is always best to start socialization from puppyhood where possible, and ensure that your dog is comfortable in public.

Be a Responsible Dog Owner:

- Responsible dog ownership helps to build a solid foundation between you and your pet. Careful selection of breed (e.g. researching energy levels, size, etc.), proper dog training, regular exercise, regular vet care, owner education, and regular socialization with other people and animals are important things to consider prior to adopting/buying your new furry family member!

Educate Your Children on How to Safely Approach Dogs, both known and unknown:

- Teach your child the basics at a young age:
 - Never tease or torment a dog, especially one who is confined or tied up
 - Never put your face in the face of a strange dog
 - Never stare a dog down
 - If you are approached by a strange dog, "be a tree"
 - If you are knocked down by a strange dog, "be a rock"
- Avoid risky situations at all times! You must never pet a dog if:
 - The dog is not with its owner
 - The owner says no
 - The dog is on the other side of a fence
 - The dog is sleeping or eating
 - The dog is resting with her puppies or appears protective of them, anxious you are around
 - The dog is sick or injured
 - The dog is playing with a bone or another toy
 - The dog is growling or barking
 - The dog seems to be hiding or seeking alone time

REMEMBER: Learning to read a dog's body language can be very helpful in preventing dog bite related incidents. Just like people, dogs rely on body gestures, postures, and vocalizations to express themselves and communicate. While we can't always read a dog's body language perfectly, we can learn to identify and listen to the signs that a dog does not want to be bothered. Learning to listen to a dog will go a long way in keeping you and your family safe from possible dog bites!

PROGRAM NUMBER 6:
HOW TO SET OWNERS UP FOR SUCCESS

HOW TO SET DOG OWNERS UP FOR SUCCESS

TIPS FOR A BETTER ENVIRONMENT FOR YOUR DOGS

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW WHEN YOU ADOPT A DOG FROM A SHELTER

Ask questions! Where did my dog come from? What was their situation prior to coming to the shelter? What sort of family did they have? Have they been tested with children and other pets? What is their energy level like? Do they have any health issues and have they been vet checked? Some of the questions will be impossible to answer, but its good to ask as much as you can, especially for dogs who are not puppies.

These questions will help to determine if this is the right dog for your family, as well as your lifestyle. Be sure to research your rescue and ensure they are reputable and caring – not all shelters and rescues are ethical! These simple steps will help set you AND your new dog up for success in both your home and in public/social settings.

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW WHEN YOU ADOPT A DOG FROM A BREEDER

Similar to adopting a dog from a shelter, ask questions! You can ask about the temperament and genetics of the parents (ask to see them too!), if the parents and puppies are health checked, if they come with paperwork from a recognized kennel club, if the puppies are registered and microchipped... You can also ask about their tolerance of other dogs so far, if they have been exposed to children, or how they behave around other small animals such as cats.

Also, do some research on your breeder – while many breeders are extremely ethical and reputable, there are others who are NOT. These breeders, commonly known as “back yard breeders”, do not do reference checks, background checks, nothing. If your breeder only cares about being paid - steer clear!!

WHAT AN OWNER SHOULD KNOW WHEN YOU PICK UP A DOG WHO HAS BEEN DETAINED IN A SHELTER

It is extraordinarily important that owners understand that ALL DOGS who have been in a shelter require **DECOMPRESSION TIME** when released. Depending on how long a dog has been detained, the individual circumstance, and what shape they are in when released, all dogs will have different requirements for this decompression period.

No matter how awesome you think your dog is (and of course they are that awesome), shelter life is not easy on a pet, especially a pet who is pampered and spoiled in your home with your family. Unlike humans, we are unable to explain to dogs why they are suddenly not at home in their fluffy beds and find themselves instead in a cold cage surrounded by weird smells, scary sounds, and strange people. The fact is that no matter how amazing and caring the staff at the shelter are with your dog, it is not the same as the care they receive with you - a responsible and loving owner.

While every situation is different, it is important to listen to your dog and have the ability to read your dogs body language. They will tell you if they are uncomfortable or if they are good to go. Ask for some tips from your local shelter, a local rescue, a dog trainer, or another animal professional who can guide you on ways to ensure your dog transitions back to their normal life safely and quickly.

WHAT AN OWNER SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE BREED OF THEIR DOG

Does your area have BSL? What do your local animal control bylaws say about dog ownership of certain types of dogs? Preparing for questions about your dogs breed will help to save you from guaranteed heartache, and will help to keep your dog safe. Always ensure your dog is registered, up to date at the vet, and that you have paperwork (CKC, AKC, ABKC, UKC), DNA results, and/or DMV confirmation to prove breed. This is especially important in Ontario for any dog in the Bully family of dogs. **Responsible ownership is ALWAYS the key to success!**

**For interactive video lessons, please visit our
website at
[www.ontariocoalitionagainstbsl.com/dog-bite-
prevention-month](http://www.ontariocoalitionagainstbsl.com/dog-bite-prevention-month)**

Topics Covered:

[Lesson 1](#) – Best Practices Around a Dog

[Lesson 2](#) – Staying Safe Around an Unfamiliar or
Unattended Dog

[Lesson 3](#) – Dog Safety and Dog Bite Prevention

[Lesson 4](#) – Keeping Your Family Dog Safe

[Lesson 5](#) – Embracing the Growl