



# PIT BULL TERRIERS & BREED-DISCRIMINATORY LAWS

Bad for Dogs, Bad for Communities.

## Breed-Discriminatory Laws (BDL) are:

- Laws that prohibit or restrict dogs based on their supposed breed.
- Today, most BDL often targets “pit bull terriers.”
  - But “pit bull terrier” isn’t a recognized dog breed, it’s just a term used to describe dogs that look a certain way, regardless of actual breed.
  - Multiple studies on dog bites have found that pit bull terriers are no more aggressive than other types of dogs.<sup>1,2</sup>

## What’s wrong with BDL?

- BDL simply doesn’t work. Experts and studies have proven that BDL doesn’t make communities safer and wastes taxpayer dollars.
  - A comprehensive review of studies by the American Veterinary Medical Association concluded BDL didn’t reduce dog bites.<sup>3</sup>
  - BDL in Prince George’s County, Maryland has failed to reduce dog bites and costs the county tens of thousands of dollars annually.<sup>4</sup>
  - BDL has failed in the United States, Spain, and the U.K.<sup>5,6</sup>
  - There are no studies finding that BDL does work.

## What should communities do instead?

- Breed-neutral, responsible pet ownership laws are the only effective way to reduce dog bites and make communities safer. These laws focus on the owner, not a dog’s physical appearance.

## BDL Opponents:

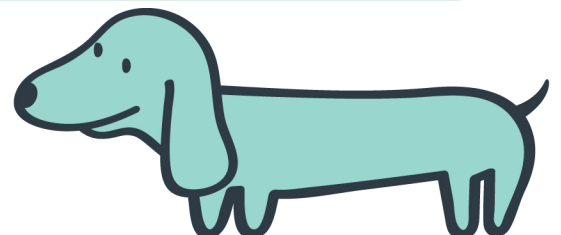
- Virtually all animal protection groups oppose BDL.
- But it’s not just about concern for pit bull terriers, non-animal welfare groups also oppose BDL including the American Bar Association, the Center for Disease Control, and the Obama Administration.

“There is no evidence that breed-specific bans reduce the rate or severity of bite injuries.”<sup>7</sup> - *The American Veterinary Medical Association*



**FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:  
WWW.ATTORNEYATPAW.ORG**

Attorney at Paw is a For All Animals Program.





# PIT BULL TERRIERS & BREED-DISCRIMINATORY LAWS

Bad for Dogs, Bad for Communities.

---

## The Fine Print (Sources)

1. Duffy D, Yuying H, Serpell J. Breed differences in canine aggression. Appl Anim Behav Sci 2008; 114 3: 441-460
2. Ott, S.A., Schalke, E., von Gaertner A., Hackbarth, H., & Mittmann, A. (2008). Is there a difference? Comparison of golden retrievers and dogs affected by breed-specific legislation regarding aggressive behavior. Journal of Veterinary Behavior, 3(3): 134-140.
3. American Veterinary Medical Association: Animal Welfare Division. (2015). Dog Bite Risk and Prevention: The Role of Breed. Retrieved from: <https://www.avma.org/KB/Resources/LiteratureReviews/Pages/The-Role-of-Breed-in-Dog-Bite-Risk-and-Prevention.aspx>
4. Vicious Animal Legislation Task Force, REPORT OF THE VICIOUS ANIMAL LEGISLATION TASK FORCE 2 (2003) (Presented to Prince George's County Council, July 2003), available at: [http://www.animalfarmfoundation.org/files/Report\\_of\\_the\\_Vicious\\_Animal\\_Legislation\\_-\\_Prince\\_Georges\\_County\\_-\\_2003.pdf](http://www.animalfarmfoundation.org/files/Report_of_the_Vicious_Animal_Legislation_-_Prince_Georges_County_-_2003.pdf)
5. B. Rosado et al., Spanish: Dangerous Animals Act: Effect of the Epidemiology of Dog Bites, 2(5)JOURNAL OF VETERINARY BEHAVIOR 166-74 (2007).
6. B. Klaassen, J.R. Buckley & A. Esmail, Does the Dangerous Dog Act Protect Against Animal Attacks: A Prospective Study of Mammalian Bites in the Accident and Emergency Department, 27(2) INJURY 89-91 (1996)
7. American Veterinary Medical Association: Animal Welfare Division. (2015). Dog Bite Risk and Prevention: The Role of Breed.



**FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:  
WWW.ATTORNEYATPAW.ORG**

Attorney at Paw is a For All Animals Program.

---