



# PIT BULL TERRIERS & BREED-DISCRIMINATORY LAWS

## A Waste of Taxpayer Dollars

### Ineffective:

- The American Veterinary Medical Association's wide-ranging review of dog bite studies determined that BDL did not reduce dog bites or make communities safer.<sup>1</sup>
  - Hundreds of U.S. cities have repealed BDL after finding it was ineffective.<sup>2</sup>
- Similarly, BDL was determined to be unsuccessful in Spain and the U.K.<sup>3,4</sup>
- There are no studies or credible data supporting BDL.

### Expensive:

- Costs of BDL include:
  - Seizure and impoundment. Animal control officers must locate and remove alleged pit bull terriers.
  - Sheltering seized animals. Prince George's County, MD spent roughly \$570,000 in two years in kenneling costs after BDL.<sup>5</sup>
  - Euthanasia and disposal of the body.
  - Court fees.
    - When owners contest that their pet is a pit bull terrier, the burden is on the city to prove otherwise. Typically, DNA testing is required.
    - Potential violation of the 14th Amendment.
    - Conflicts with Americans with Disabilities Act. Disabled persons are entitled to service animals, including pit bull terriers. The Department of Justice mandates all public places allow service dogs regardless of breed.<sup>6</sup>

### Poor Use of Limited Resources:

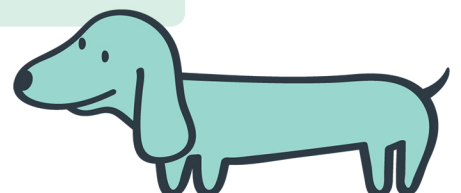
- Animal control officers are forced to divert scarce resources to tracking down and seizing dogs with no history of aggression. This leaves less time and money for dealing with actual dangerous dogs.
- Resources spent regulating a breed decrease the time and money left over for enforcing laws that have been proven to reduce dog bites, like dog licensing, anti-tethering laws, and leash laws.

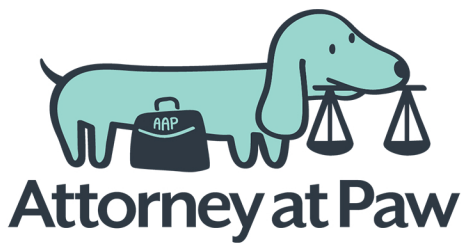
**'Spending Taxpayers' Dollars  
Doesn't Make Sense!'**



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

Attorney at Paw is a For All Animals Program.





# PIT BULL TERRIERS & BREED-DISCRIMINATORY LAWS

A Waste of Taxpayer Dollars

## Poor Use of Limited Resources (cont.):

“Current Breed Specific ordinances have proven ineffective in reducing the number of pit bulls in Topeka or the number of dog bites. Breed Specific Legislation, i.e. targeting a particular breed such as American Pit Bull Terriers, has generally been discredited in actual experience of cities, professionals and academic research as being both ineffective and expensive.” - City of Topeka, City Attorney’s Office<sup>7</sup>

## The Fine Print (Sources)

1. 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>
2. Madhani, A.(2014, November 18). U.S. Communities Increasingly Ditching Pit Bull Bans. USA Today. Retrieved from: <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2014/11/17/pit-bulls-breed-specific-legislation-bans/19048719/>
3. B. Rosado et al., Spanish: Dangerous Animals Act: Effect of the Epidemiology of Dog Bites, 2(5)JOURNAL OF VETERINARY BEHAVIOR 166-74 (2007).
4. 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)
5. Vicious Animal Legislation Task Force (2003)
6. U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division “Frequently Asked Questions about Service Animals and the ADA.” Retrieved from: [https://www.ada.gov/regs2010/service\\_animal\\_qa.html](https://www.ada.gov/regs2010/service_animal_qa.html)
7. City of Topeka, City Attorney’s Office, “Proposed Ordinance on Animal Cruelty and Dangerous Dogs,” Retrieved from: <http://www.topeka.org/pdfs/SummaryFAQs.pdf>



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

Attorney at Paw is a For All Animals Program.