

Think Banning Breeds of Dogs is NOT the Answer? Others Agree.

Voted Down

Sandusky, OH
 Camanche, IA
 Sandusky, OH
 North Muskegon
 Corpus Christi, TX
 Coeur D'Alene, ID
 Jackson County, MO
 Rodgers City, AR
 Portage, WI
 Ward, AR
 Jackson, AL
 Bluefield, WV
 Lee Summit, MO
 Baton Rouge, LA
 Sumter County, SC
 Monterey, TN
 Little Rock, AR
 Anderson, IL
 Manhattan, KS
 Phillipsburg, NJ
 Indianapolis, IN
 Cedar City, UT
 Portage, WI
 Belton, MO
 Peculiar, MO
 Leavenworth, KS
 Batesville, AR
 Deridder, LA
 Cedar Rapids, IA
 Alabama
 Montgomery, AL
 Bald Knob, AR
 Shannon Hills, AR
 Searcy, AR
 Mulberry, AR
 Fort Smith, AR
 Crossett, AR
 Colorado
 Golden, CO
 Estes Park, CO
 Northglenn, CO
 Lafayette, CO
 Longmont, CO
 Rocky Ford, CO
 Federal Heights, CO
 Westminster, CO
 New Castle County, DE
 Coral Springs, FL
 Deltona, FL
 Rockmart, GA
 Floyd County, GA
 Kewanee, IL
 Waukegan, IL
 McHenry County, IL
 Normal, IL
 Paxton, IL
 Forest, IL
 Bloomington, IL
 Will County, IL
 Chicago, IL
 Lincolnshire, IL
 Hodgkins, IL
 Northlake, IL
 Minooka, IL
 Anderson, IN
 Indianapolis, IN
 South Bend, IN
 St. Joseph County, IN
 Mason City, IA
 Waterloo, IA
 Washington, IA
 Humbolt, IA
 Leavenworth, KA
 Witches, KA
 Emporia, KA
 Merriam, KA
 Olathe, KA
 Frankfort, KY
 Lietchfield, KY
 Milton, KY
 Lincoln County, KY
 Spencer County, KY
 Middlesboro, KY
 Oldham County, KY
 Paintsville, KY
 Park Hills, KY
 Corinth, KY
 Taylor Mill, KY
 Lake Charles, LA
 Sulpher, LA
 Gonzalez, LA
 Methuen, MA
 Gloucester, MA
 Waltham, MA
 New Jersey
 North Carolina
 Watuga County, NC
 Lancaster, OH
 East Palestine, OH
 Wilkes Barre, PA
 Hazelton, PA
 Erie, PA
 Woodbury, TN
 Tullahoma, TN
 Shelbyville, TN
 Putnam County, TN
 East Palestine, OH
 Bedford County, TN
 Killeen, TX

Bamberg, SC
 Killeen, TX
 DeSoto, TX
 Washington
 Richland, WA
 Federal Way, WA
 Wheeling, WV
 Horicon, WI
 Eau Claire, WI
 Brandon, MI
 Cassopolis, MI
 Oxford, MI
 Milford, MI
 Romeo, MI
 Oak Grove, MO
 Bellfontaine Neighbors, MO
 Unionville, MO
 Jennings, MO
 Raytown, MO
 Sedalia, MO
 University City, MO

BSL stopped due to education, ineffectiveness, cost and public outcry

Levanworth, KS
 Northlake, IL
 Hudsonville, MI
 Bald Knob, AR
 Searcy, AR
 Golden, CO
 Northglenn, CO
 Lafayette, CO
 Rocky Ford, CO
 Federal Heights, CO
 Westminster, CO
 Normal, IL
 Paxton, IL
 Forest, IL
 Bloomington, IL
 Will County, IL
 Chicago, IL
 North Chicago, IL
 Lincolnshire, IL
 Hodgkins, IL
 Middlesboro, KY
 Lake Charles, LA
 Bellfontaine Neighbors, MS
 Jennings, MS
 Lancaster, OH
 Wilkes Barre, PA
 Woodbury, TN
 Eau Claire, WI
 Detroit, MI
 Salem, MA
 Parker, CO
 Lake St. Louis, MO
 Lowell, MI
 Russellville, AR
 Bourbonnais, IL
 Flatwoods, KY
 Annapolis, MD
 Cripple Creek, CO
 Hazel Park, MI
 Crawford County, MI
 Baltimore, MD
 State of Delaware
 Stafford, KS
 Wilmington, NC
 Loveland, CO
 Arlington, NM
 Wichita, Kansas
 Auburn, WA
 Roseville, MI
 Bellingham, MA
 MARLBOROUGH, MA
 Kansas City, MO
 Black Jack, MO
 Wyndotte, MI
 St. Charles, MO
 New Mexico - S188
 Withdrawn
 Hohenwalt, TN
 Indianapolis, IN
 Sacramento, CA
 Taylor Mills, KY
 Shannon Hills, AR
 Mulberry, AR
 Estes Park, CO
 Lajuanta, CO
 Longmont, CO
 New Castle County, DE
 Rockmart, GA
 McHenry County, IL
 Anderson, IN
 Humbolt, IA
 Leavenworth, KS
 Witches, KS
 Frankfort, KY
 Lietchfield, KY
 Milton, KY
 Lincoln County, KY
 Spencer County, KY
 Sulpher, LA
 Oak Grove, MS

Unionville, MS
 Trenton, MS
 Romeo, MI
 State of Oklahoma
 Lakewood, CO
 Olathe, KS
 Battle Creek, MI
 Old Bridge, NJ
 Jacksonville, AR
 Lawrence, Kansas
 New York, New York
 Youngstown, OH
 St. Tammany Parish, LA
 State of Maryland
 Bellevue, NE
 Austintown, OH
 Grand Rapids, MI
 St. Mary's County, MD
 Denmark, WI
 Broomfield, CO
 Adrian, MI
 Ann Arbor, MI
 North Ridgeville, Ohio
 Benton Harbor, MI
 Roseville, MI
 Belton, MO
 Oklahoma State
 Illinois

Repealed

Almena, MI
 Arcadia Parish, LA
 Beloit, KS
 Belton, MO
 Belton, MS
 Cleveland, OH
 Crossville, IL
 Detroit, MI
 Detroit, MI
 Dickenson, ND
 Eastpoint, MI
 Ellis, KS
 Federalburg, MD
 Golden, CO
 Lee's Summit, MO
 Longmont, CO
 Merriem, KS
 Middletown, OH
 Milford, MI
 Osage County, KS
 Pontiac, MI
 Raytown, MS
 Redford, MI
 Revere, MA
 Richland, WA
 Scott City, KS
 Shawnee, KS
 Shelbyville, TN
 Sherwood Park, Alberta
 Topeka, KS
 Tullahoma, TN

State Laws Prohibiting BSL

California
 Colorado
 Florida
 Illinois
 Maine
 Minnesota
 New Jersey
 New York
 Lowell, MI
 Oklahoma
 Texas
 Virginia
 Washington

A CDC Study, the Meritt Clifton Summary, Insurance Company Discrimination and Actuarial Data Are Used as the Cornerstones of the Breed Ban Argument

The CDC Study

One of the primary sources of information quoted to justify breed banning is a CDC report titled *Breeds of dogs involved in fatal human attacks in the United States between 1979 and 1998* published initially in 2000.

The CDC report illustrates more than anything that dangerous dog trends change (breed is incidental and subject to popularity and fad) through time.

The CDC report discusses why breed specific legislation is **NOT** the proper avenue for addressing dog attacks. The authors of the report have personally gone on record to state that the report is **INACCURATE** and should **NOT** be used to justify BSL.

"It is frustrating for me personally," Golab says, "because people who want to enact breed-specific legislation keep using that paper to try and make a case against pit bulls. But all we did was match breeds with fatalities over a 20-year period. And the numbers show that the breed that goes to the top changes over time, which suggests that something other than breed is responsible for the fatalities."

But people try to use just the last few years in the table, which shows pit bulls and Rottweilers on top. The whole point of our summary was to explain why you can't do that. But the media and the people who want to support their case just don't look at that."

The CDC's Gilchrist argues "the breeds involved are going to vary. The more encompassing way is to deal with dangerous dogs so that every dog and every owner is covered all the time"

The CDC recommends that improvements in surveillance for fatal and nonfatal dog bites are necessary to target and evaluate prevention efforts.

According to the Nation's Largest Insurer

State Farm Insurance – no breed restrictions. Some companies don't discriminate by breed.

"We believe that there are good dogs and bad dogs within every breed, just as we believe that there are responsible and irresponsible owners," says Phil Supple of State Farm.

Dan Hattaway, an underwriting consultant for State Farm, says the company doesn't even track how many of its home insurance policyholders own dogs. Policyholders do have to answer questions about dogs on the application, however. Specifically, the company wants to know if a dog has ever bitten anyone or if it has been trained for attack purposes.

If the dog has bitten someone, State Farm will want to know the circumstances surrounding the bite. "We'll want to ascertain if it's ever likely to happen again — if precautions have been taken to prevent it," says Hattaway. Other factors the company looks at are the seriousness of the injury and whether the attack was provoked or unprovoked.

The Meritt Clifton Summary

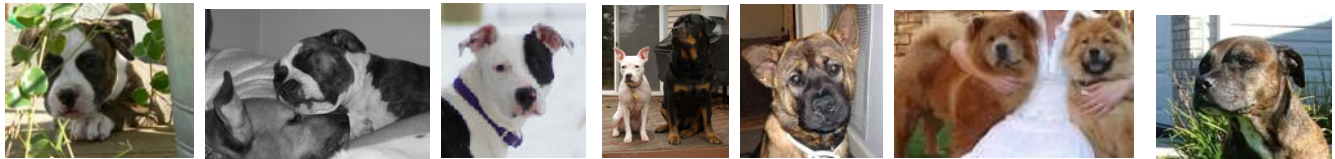
An Analysis of Merritt Clifton's Dog Attack Deaths and Maimings, U.S. & Canada - September 1982 to November 13, 2006, from the National Canine Research Council

Mr. Clifton's "study" can be found on a prominent dog-bite attorney website and is being used as "statistical evidence" of breed behaviors by those who seem unable or unwilling to recognize the critical errors in data collection and the damaging and erroneous conclusions drawn from a biased and flawed sample.

Merritt Clifton's scrapbook of newspaper articles is presented, and often accepted, as an unbiased and accurate representation of dog attacks in the U.S. and Canada. The title and numbers presented as "statistics" suggest that an unbiased, scientific methodology was used to achieve the results.

However, Mr. Clifton arbitrarily excluded dog attacks in which the breed of dog was not "identifiable," that is, where no one at the scene, or later, claimed to know what kind of dogs were involved. Also excluded were dogs deemed to be used for guarding, police work or as fighting dogs. The uncertainty of any alleged breed identification aside, the exclusion of all attacks by dogs where no breed identification was asserted, combined with the exclusion of dogs used for a specific function, leaves us a list that is utterly unrepresentative of "dog attacks and maimings" in the U.S. and Canada.

Mr. Clifton's "study" further suffers from the use of a biased sample. There is no national organization in the U.S. or Canada that collects data on a systematic basis on the circumstances or specifics of dog bite-related injuries. In the absence of a professionally reliable data source, news reports are often substituted in an attempt to identify circumstances surrounding dog attacks. However, newspapers do not have the interest, desire, resources or ability to provide an accurate or complete profile of dog attacks occurring in the U.S. and Canada.



Insurance Federation of Minnesota

Actuarial data is trade secret because each company uses a different formula and the formulas used are considered trade secret and thus are not ever divulged.

The problem with this question is that there is no one central repository for data about dog bite injuries and claims. Insurers are not required to break down their claims payments based on dog bite or even by breed.

That being said, we did query the top 10 insurers in the state last summer asking if they did underwriting based on specific dog breed and if so which breeds were subject to adverse underwriting (higher premiums or exclusions). We received 7 responses.

We compiled the list in aggregate and submitted it to Rep. John Lesch (DFL-St. Paul) who is considering a bill to ban/regulate certain breeds of dogs.

Akita, Alaskan Malamute, American Staffordshire Terrier, Boxer, Bullmastiff, Chow Chow, Doberman Pinscher, German Shepard, Great Dane, Pit Bull, Presa Canario, Rottweiler, Siberian Husky, Staffordshire Bull Terrier, Weimaraner, Any Wolf Hybrid, Any mix of these breeds, Any Exotic Guard Dog breed, Risks that involve vicious or exotic animals or pets, Horses or other livestock.

This is the list supplied to Representative Lesch. As you see the list is in alphabetical order and contains no statistical analysis.

What do the Scholars say?

An initial first step would be to improve surveillance and reporting of dog bites. Until accurate numbers for the numerator and denominator in the relative dangerousness ratio can be ascertained, insurers and governments will be without realistic data on which to make meaningful decisions. The need for more accurate data collection has been championed by the very scientists who have tried to calculate the scope of the dog-biting problem. – See generally Jeffrey J. Sacks et al., *Fatal Dog Attacks, 1989-1994*, 97 *Pediatrics* 891 (June 1996)

The principal problem in determining the total number of bites by a particular breed is that there is no national reporting system for dog bites. – Weiss HB, Friedman DI, Coben JH. *Incidence of dog bite injuries treated in emergency departments. JAMA* 1998; 271(1):51-53.

There is good reason to believe that the raw data being used to calculate relative dangerousness ratios is incomplete and inaccurate. If the data being inputted into the calculation is flawed, the results (claiming to show some breeds are more dangerous than others) are equally flawed. - Katharine Dokken, *Dog Bite Statistics: Bad Logic*, at <http://www.thedogplace.com/library/articles156.htm>

Cincinnati Law Review Findings

A five-year study published in the Cincinnati Law Review concluded that statistics did not support the assertion that any one breed was dangerous, and found that when legislation is focused on the type of dog it fails because it is unenforceable, confusing and costly. Focusing legislation on breeds that are labeled as vicious only distracts attention from the real problem - irresponsible dog owners.

Locating, identifying, confiscating, housing, destroying and disposing of banned dogs are expensive. Cincinnati was spending \$200,000 a year to confiscate and destroy less than 20 percent of the city's pit bulls before the city repealed its long-standing pit bull ban last year.

The AVMA (American Veterinary Medical Association) Task Force on Canine Aggression and Human-Canine Interactions wrote in "A community approach to dog bite prevention" (see JAVMA, June 1, 2001, page 1732) that breed-specific legislation is an inappropriate and ineffective approach to protecting public safety.