

Alle fagfolkene imod hundeloven

Flertal i befolkningen og blandt fagfolk er **IMOD** forbud af specifikke hunderacer og ønsker en ændring snarest muligt af den nuværende hundelov.

Flertallet var **IMOD FØR** og er det **STADIG**. Der er intet fagligt eller sagligt grundlag for at forbyde visse hunderacer. Konsekvenserne af hundeloven har været fatal for mange uskyldige hunde og der har været utallige fadæser og misfortolkninger af hundeloven. Retssikkerheden er væk for hundeejere og det gælder ikke kun for listehunderacerne, men for **ALLE** hundeejere. Hundeloven har været og er skyld i, at mange liv i dag er ødelagt. Derfor er der **INGEN** undskyldning for ikke at lave den om snarest muligt.

Det kan ikke og bør ikke vente til 2013.

I forbindelse med publicering af betænkning om farlige hunde bragte de fleste medier og politikere det budskab, at hundeudvalget havde anbefalet forbud af 14 hunderacer.

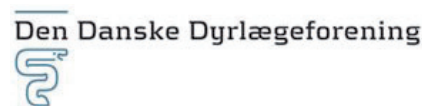
Det budskab er ikke korrekt!

Justitsminister Brian Mikkelsen anmodede på et møde i august 2009, formanden for hundeudvalget - landsdommer Jens Kruse Mikkelsen - om, at udvalget i sin delbetænkning om farlige hunde opstillede én eller flere modeller for et forbud mod kamp- og muskelhunde.

Ifølge justitsministeriets pressemeddelelse kan et flertal af udvalgets medlemmer (*udvalgets formand og medlemmerne udpeget efter indstilling fra Dansk Kennel Klub, Danmarks civile Hundeførerforening, Dyrenes Beskyttelse, Dyreværnsrådet og Den Danske Dyrlægeforening*) dog ikke anbefale, at der gennemføres et forbud mod visse hunderacer.

Det vil sige at 6 af 9 af udvalgets medlemmer er imod forbud af bestemte racer. De resterende 3 medlemmer af udvalget er udpeget af justitsministeriet, rigsadvokaten og rigspolitiet.

Fagfolkene/eksperterne/foreninger i Danmark har sagt og siger stadig:



21-01-2010 | Pressemeddelelse

Justitsministerens hundeudvalg fraråder forbud mod visse hunderacer. Det fremgår af gårsdagens presse, at justitsministerens hundeudvalg anbefaler et forbud mod 14 hunderacer. Det er ikke tilfældet.

Den Danske Dyrlægeforening:

Hundeudvalget anbefaler IKKE et forbud mod bestemte hunderacer

Af gårsdagens presse fremgår det, at det såkaldte Hundeudvalg anbefaler et forbud mod 14 hunderacer. Det er ikke det, der står i udvalgets betænkning om farlige hunde. Den betænkning modtog justitsministeren i går formiddag og lagde den straks på Justitsministeriets hjemmeside. Betænkningen identificerer ganske vist 14 hunderacer som problematiske, men der er tale om en mindretalsindstilling fra udvalget. Et flertal af udvalgets medlemmer kan således ikke anbefale et forbud. Det synspunkt bakkes op af Den Danske Dyrlægeforening, der har været repræsenteret i udvalget.

Af delbetænkningens side 10 fremgår det:

Et flertal af udvalgets medlemmer kan dog ikke anbefale, at der gennemføres et forbud mod visse hunderacer. Disse medlemmer peger på, at der ikke er noget sikkert statistisk grundlag for at udpege bestemte hunderacer som mere farlige end andre, og at der ikke er nogen sikkerhed for, at et raceforbud mærkbart vil mindske problemet med farlige hunde. Disse medlemmer finder endvidere, at et forbud vil ramme for bredt, idet det vil være vanskeligt for borgerne at tilbagevise politiets påstand om, at man er indehaver af en forbudt hund, ligesom forbuddet også vil ramme velfungerende hunde af de nævnte racer. Samtidig finder disse medlemmer, at forbuddet vil ramme for snævert og ikke løse problemet med farlige hunde, idet der også findes farlige hunde inden for andre racer.

Det er i øvrigt påfaldende, at mindretallet i hundevalget, der ønsker et forbud, kommer fra Justitsministeriets embedsværk, mens flertallet af hundeesperter fraråder et forbud.

Eventuelt yderligere oplysninger hos formanden for Den Danske Dyr lægeforening, Arne Skjoldager på telefon 27 80 17 41.

DDD's udtalelse vedr. "Observationslisten"

Justitsministeriet har d. 23. november 2010 bedt Den Danske Dyr lægeforening (DDD) kommentere udkast til den såkaldte observationsliste i forbindelse med kommende evaluering af hundelovens forbudsordning. DDD har følgende kommentarer:

Den Danske Dyr lægeforening sætter pris på at blive inddraget som aktør ved udarbejdelse af "observationslisten". Vores holdning til idéen om at fokusere på bestemte racer i spørgsmålet om at bekæmpe problemet med farlige hunde har dog ikke ændret sig.

I Betænkning nr. 1415 om farlige hunde bemærkede udvalg nedsat af Justitsministeriet, at man ikke har noget sikkert statistisk eller erfaringsmæssigt grundlag for at beslutte, hvilke racer der burde omfattes af et forbud. Denne bemærkning har baggrund i faglige artikler, skadestuerapporter og oplysninger fra de hundesagkyndige, der står for vurderingen af de farlige hunde for Politiet (kap. 5.2.1.5, 5.4 og kap 6.2.4.).

Et flertal i udvalget var blandt andet derfor imod et forbud.

Et mindretal af udvalgets medlemmer fandt, at der var stærke grunde for en forbudsordning, pga. at "der i den brede befolkning skabes frygt for at blive angrebet af hunde", uanset om denne frygt var statistisk velbegrundet.

Listen over de racer, der blev forbudt, indeholder hunde, som i almindelighed anses som tilhørende kamp- eller muskelhunde, samt hunde der tilhører gruppen af hyrde og vagthunde fra Syd-, og Østeuropa samt Asien.

Der er så vidt dyr lægeforeningen har kendskab til ingen dokumentation for, at disse racer er farligere end andre racer. Det kan derfor undre, at Justitsministeriet i herværende henvendelse skriver om hunderacerne på udkastet til observationslisten, at de endnu "ikke har udvist en sådan farlighed, at de efter Justitsministeriets opfattelse burde have været omfattet af en forbudsordning".

En sådan formulering giver indtryk af, at der findes objektive faglige informationer, der kan danne grundlag for en graduering af de enkelte racers faglighed. Er dette tilfældet, er DDD meget interesseret i at få indsigt i det pågældende materiale.

Er det ikke tilfældet, kan DDD desværre stadig ikke på nuværende tidspunkt se noget seriøst fagligt kriterium for at udvælge eller fravælge racer til en eventuel observationsliste.

For hver ny race, der eventuelt kommer på "forbudslisten", vil et stort antal ejere og hunde blive berørt, dels fordi forbudet også inkluderer blandinger af de nævnte racer, og dels fordi den omvendte bevisbyrde gælder.

DDD finder observationslisten tendentiøs og usaglig og finder det derfor yderst problematisk at listen bibeholdes end sige, at der er racer, der i fremtiden rykker fra observationslisten til forbudslisten.

For begge lister gælder, at der mangler klare beviselige faglige argumenter for, at en hunds race spiller en afgørende rolle i forhold til forudsigelse af hundens farlighed.

Den nyeste evaluering af den engelske lov om farlige hunde, bekræfter kun Den Danske Dyrlægeforening i rigtigheden i at fokusere på hundens adfærd i stedet for at fokusere på dens race.

Så længe faglighed ikke spiller nogen rolle i forhold til indhold i forbudsordningen, ser DDD ingen grund til at deltage i en hypotetisk diskussion om hvilke konkrete racer, der skal bør stå på "observationslisten".

Side 34 - https://www.ddd.dk/organisatorisk/sektionsmaadyr/Documents/Journalen_0111%20LOW.pdf

Netdyredoktor.dk

Netdyredoktor.dk udsendte et nyhedsbrev, hvor de kommenterer på og informerer om besvarelser på spørgeskema vedr. muskelhunde. De skriver bl.a.:

Det er tydeligt at se, at der er mange fordomme mod muskelhunde/kamphunde, men der er heldigvis mange som mener, det er ejeren frem for hunden, der er det største problem.

Undersøgelsen viser også, at et forbud ikke nødvendigvis løser problemet. Hvis man forbyder en race, er der stor chance for at de forkerte ejere blot finder en anden race og mishandler den, til den også bliver aggressiv.

Dyrlægeforeningen har holdt et seminar omkring muskelhunde/kamphunde, hvor man også konkluderede, at forbud ikke virker.

Det er åbenlyst, at det er vigtigt, at fortsætte debatten omkring dette emne, så almindelige gode hundeejere ikke bliver straffet af en lovgivning, og så hundeejere i al almindelighed kan føle sig trygge, når de går rundt på gader og stræder.

Måske kunne problemet blive løst, hvis den eksisterende lovgivning rent faktisk blev håndhævet bedre, dvs. hvis flere resurser blev sat af til politiet til at gøre noget ved problemet.



- Et raceforbud løser ikke problemerne med aggressive hunde. Om en hund er farlig afhænger alene af dens adfærd og ikke af dens race, konstaterer dyreværnschef i Dyrenes Beskyttelse, Jens Svenningsen.

Justitsministeren nedsatte i 2009 et udvalg, der skulle kuglegrave hundeloven - herunder problematikken med farlige hunde. Dyrenes Beskyttelse er repræsenteret i udvalget og har sammen med et flertal i udvalget frarådet at forbyde bestemte racer. At både justitsministeren og et flertal i folketinget vælger at overhøre udvalgets faglige argumenter, ryster Dyrenes Beskyttelse.

Dyrenes Beskyttelse mener, at den langsigtede løsning med farlige hunde ligger i at give myndighederne mulighed for - og pligt til - at handle prompte overfor hunde, der viser tegn på aggressiv adfærd. Uanset racen. Desuden mener foreningen, at alle hunde skal gå i snor i byområder. Til gengæld er foreningen imod alle forslag, der forringer den enkelte hunds velfærd. Derfor kan foreningen for eksempel ikke acceptere, at enkelte racer altid skal bære mundkurv, når de færdes offentligt.

Dyrenes Beskyttelse mener ikke, at farlige hunde er et racemæssigt problem, men et adfærdsmæssigt problem. En hund af en af de forbudte racer kan være jordens bedste hund. Hvis den er opdraget og afrettet ordentligt og aldrig har udvist farlig adfærd, så mener Dyrenes Beskyttelse, at forbuddet kommer til at fungere som kollektiv afstraffelse, siger Lotte Brink, dyrlæge og projektleder for familiedyr i Dyrenes Beskyttelse....

Yderligere oplysninger: Jens Svenningsen, dyreværnschef tlf.: 40 14 80 22.



Dyrefondet er imod både forbud mod bestemte hunderacer og særlige observationslister.

– Det løser ingen problemer og kan ikke håndhæves. I stedet vil vi langt hellere have indført et krav om kørekort til hund, så vi mennesker bliver trænet i at læse hundenes signaler, siger direktør Vibeke Haslund.



Fredag den 4. juni 2010 vedtog Folketinget en ændring af Hundeloven.

Med de nye bestemmelser indføres et forbud mod at besidde og avle 13 angivne hunderacer samt krydsninger, hvori disse racer indgår. Loven træder i kraft 1. juli 2010.

Fra DCHs side beklager vi denne beslutning, for DCH har ikke på noget tidspunkt kunne støtte op om et forbud mod bestemte hunderacer. Vi har på alle måder forsøgt at argumentere imod et forbud i det udvalgsarbejde, vores forretningsfører Hans Tonsborg har deltaget i.



Tillykke med vedtagelsen af den nye hundelov med forbud mod tretten navngivne hunderacer.

Desværre rammer din nye lov helt ved siden af! Den kan nemt komme til at koste mange tusinde hunde livet - også hunde, der ikke har skyggen af en forbudt race i sig.

I Dyreværnet er vi voldsomt bekymrede for de 400.000 blandingshunde, der rammes af loven, og for de fatale konsekvenser, den vil få for mange sunde og raske blandingshunde, hvis eneste fejl er, at de ikke har en stamtavle. For uden en stamtavle kan deres ejer umuligt bevise, at de ikke bærer gener fra en ulovlig race - og dermed er de i reel livsfare, hvis de skal skifte hjem eller er født efter 1. juli! Internaterne i Danmark formidler tilsammen ca. 2.300 hunde årligt. Hvad skal der ske med disse hunde, hvor under 1% har en stamtavle? Og får vi en bøde, hver gang vi overdrager en hund til mennesker, der gerne vil hjælpe et dyr i nød?

5. maj 2010 sendte Dyreværnet et brev til justitsministeriet for at få svar på en række essentielle spørgsmål vedrørende håndhævelse af den nye hundelov. Vi fik et brev tilbage - men uden svar på vores spørgsmål. Derfor rettede vi endnu en henvendelse. Vi afventer stadig svar på denne.

Som ejer af ca. 600 "nye" blandingshunde årligt vil Dyreværnet gerne have at vide, hvor vi skal henvende os for at få racebestemt vores hunde. Justitsministeriet må have gjort sig nogle overvejelser omkring, hvorledes den nye lov kan håndhæves. Jeg tillader mig derfor – for tredje gang – at stille justitsministeren følgende spørgsmål:

- Da det ikke er muligt at anvende DNA-test i forbindelse med racebestemmelse af hunde, hvor skal Dyreværnet (og alle andre ejere af blandingshunde i Danmark) så henvende sig i fremtiden for at få en hund korrekt racebestemt?
- Hvem er kvalificeret til at kunne racebestemme hunde, således at det kan vurderes, om det er en ulovlig eller lovlig hund?
- Hvad anses for at være "tilstrækkeligt bevismateriale", når Dyreværnet (og alle andre ejere af blandingshunde i Danmark) skal bevise, at en hund uden stamtavle er lovlig?
- Hvornår må en hund uden stamtavle videreformidles, og hvornår er eneste mulighed aflivning?

Overnævnte er essentielle spørgsmål, som vi bliver nødt til at få svar på for at kunne varetage formidling af blandingshunde og rådgive nye hundeejere efter d. 1. juli 2010, hvor den nye hundelov træder i kraft.

Jeg vil afslutningsvis gerne pointere, at Dyreværnet er her for at tage sig af værgeløse dyr og dyr i nød. Vi ønsker ikke at aflive sunde og raske dyr. Vi arbejder målrettet med vores formidlingsarbejde, og derfor adfærdstester vi alle hunde, hvor vi skønner det nødvendigt. Ligeledes lægger vi et stort arbejde i at finde de helt rigtige nye ejere, som har den fornødne viden og racekendskab, når vi formidler vores hunde.

Er det her dyrevelfærd, eller er det massedrab?

Dyreværnet ser frem til at høre fra Dem, hr. justitsminister.

Med venlig hilsen Anne Marie Tiedemann, Direktør for Dyreværnet



Danmark forbyder 13 racer

Folketinget har vedtaget en ændring af hundeloven, der forbyder 13 racer. Loven træder i kraft 1. juli 2010 og omfatter forbud af følgende racer:

FCI racer

- Amerikansk Staffordshire Terrie
- Centralasiatisk Ovtcharka
- Dogo Argentino
- Fila Brasileiro
- Kaukasisk Ovtcharka
- Sarplaninac
- Sydrussisk Ovtcharka
- Tornjak

Øvrige racer

- Amerikansk Bulldog
- Boerboel
- Kangal
- Pit bull terrier (forbudt i 1991)
- Tosa (forbudt i 1991)

Disse racer eller blandinger, hvori disse racer indgår:

- Må ikke bruges i avl.
- Må ikke købes, sælges, importeres, eksporteres eller overdrages.
- Skal føres i kort snor (max. 2 m) uden for besidderens ejendom.
- Skal bære mundkurv uden for besidderens ejendom.

- Derudover skal besidderen på forespørgsel af politiet bevise, at dennes hund ikke nedstammer fra nogle af de forbudte racer (omvendt bevisbyrde).

Justitsministeriet etablerer desuden en observationsliste for potentielt farlige hunderacer. Det er endnu ikke offentliggjort:

- Hvordan denne liste administreres.
- Hvilke racer der indgår på listen.
- Hvilke kriterier der ligger til grund for at definere racer som potentielt farlige.

Lovgivningen evalueres efter 3 år.

Bemærk at loven omfatter flere restriktioner og er langt mere detaljeret. Da behandlingen af loven blev forceret tidsmæssigt, er der stor usikkerhed om- kring tolkning af loven og dens konsekvenser for de hunde og ejere, som rammes af restriktioner og forbud.

Ansvarlige ejere & opdrættere vil arbejde for en ændring af loven!

Dansk Terrier Klub og Bull Image Gruppen beklager dybt Folketingets uhørte politiske lovgivning. Vi vil fortsat arbejde for en effektiv løsning af problemerne med farlige hunde og bekæmpe denne ineffektive og udokumenterede racespe- cifikke lovgivning.

- Vi giver ikke op!

Justitsministeriets hundevalg er mod forbud

Justitsministeren nedsatte hundevalget for at finde løsninger på problemerne med farlige hunde. Men i slutningen af 2009

pålagde han udvalget, at en af deres løsninger skulle være forbud af bestemte racer. Udvalgets delbetænkning fra 2010 viser, at et flertal af udvalget er mod raceforbud (mindretallet består af embedsmænd).

Racer valgt uden statistisk og erfaringsmæssigt grundlag

Udvalget skriver, at der ikke findes sikkert statistisk og erfaringsmæssigt grundlag for, hvilke racer der bør omfattes af et eventuelt forbud.

I denne forbindelse gør vi opmærksom på, at udvalgets materiale indeholder:

- Statistik fra danske skadestuer, der viser, at andre racer topper listen over hunde, som står bag bid på mennesker.
- En ikke videnskabelig liste, der er anvendt til definition af potentielt farlige hunde, hvor forfatteren skriver, at denne ikke har erfaringer med alle hundearterne og derfor ikke kan udelukke, at nogle er placeret forkert. Forfatteren har ikke en videnskabelig baggrund.

Alle faglige eksperter er mod forbud af racer

Alle faglige eksperter, bl.a. Den Danske Dyrlægeforening og hundeudvalget, er mod raceforbud. Et flertal af svarene i høringen i forbindelse med delbetænkningen er også mod raceforbud.

Erfaring viser at racespecifik lovgivning ikke virker

Andre lande fjerner deres racespecifikke lovgivning, fordi det ikke virker.

- Nederlandene fjernede i 2008 deres raceforbud efter 15 år.
- Nordtyskland fjernede deres raceliste i 2009 efter 9 års restriktioner.
- Scotland fjerner racespecifik lovgivning i 2010.
- England og Wales er i gang med at fjerne racespecifik lovgivning.

Ingen stigning i hundebid på mennesker

Statistik viser, at hundebid på mennesker blev halveret i midten af 90'erne. Antallet har været stabilt siden 1998. Der er altså ikke sket en stigning i antallet af hundebid på mennesker.

Aggression er IKKE racebestemt

Det er videnskabeligt dokumenteret, at aggression ikke er racebestemt bl.a. af det veterinære universitet i Hannover. Der findes altså ikke et såkaldt "kampgen".

Forskere: - Hundelov er totalt usaglig

Lovgiverne lod sig gribe af en mediestorm og en folkestemning og lod hånt om enhver form for fakta, dokumentation og saglige argumenter, da den nye hundelov blev indført sidste år.

- Jeg blev faktisk forskrækket over, at der kunne være så dårlig dokumentation for noget så vigtigt som en lov, der berører tusindvis af mennesker og hunde, siger speciallægen forfatter, Cecilie Thorslund, til Videnskab.dk.

Professor og Leder af Center for Bioetik og Risikovurdering Peter Sandøe:

Personligt håber jeg, at politikerne, på trods af tidligere meldinger om det modsatte, vil besinde sig og lytte til hundeudvalgets flertal. At forbyde bestemte hundearter på det foreliggende grundlag er usagligt og udtryk for, hvad man kunne kalde hunderacisme. Man vælger at skære alle hunde af en bestemt race over én kam – selv om for eksempel den enkelte amstaffer kan være både sød og velfungerende.

Racisme og andre diskriminerende holdninger over for mennesker har sin rod i et behov for at have synderbukke og for at kunne placere vores frygt et bestemt sted. På tilsvarende måde med hunde.

Som det fremgår ovenfor, har man gennem tiden udnævnt en række forskellige racer til at være særligt farlige, uden at det har været sagligt begrundet.

Hanne Hjelmer Jørgensen - Biolog og forfatter

Farlige hunde er hunde, som har en lav tærskel for udløsning af overdreven aggression/alvorskamp.

Ikke alle individer tilhørende hunderacer fremavlet til dyre- og hundekampe har en lav tærskel for udløsning af overdreven aggression/alvorskamp. Også individer tilhørende hunderacer, som ikke er fremavlet til dyre og hundekampe, kan have en lav tærskel for udløsning af overdreven aggression/alvorskamp.

Altså findes der ikke farlige hunderacer. Der findes farlige hunde indenfor alle hunderacer.

Pernille Hansen - Dyrlæge og hundesagkyndig

De hunderacer, som vurderes for farlige til at betræde dansk jord, er udvalgt på baggrund af sager i pressen, rygter og fornemmelser. Sådan lyder det nu fra en af eksperterne i regeringens hundevalg.

Hun føler sig spændt for en politisk vogn. "Vi blev pålagt at udvælge hunderacer, der kunne være omfattet af et forbud.

Det synes jeg rigtig skidt om, fordi der ikke var objektive faglige eller statistiske argumenter til grund for udvælgelsen. Det synes jeg slet ikke var behageligt", siger dyrlæge Pernille Hansen fra Den Danske Dyrlægeforening.

"De hunderacer på listen, der betegnes som muskelhunde, er udelukkende med, fordi de menes at skabe frygt i befolkningen", påpeger hun.

"Denne frygt er blandt andet skabt af den meget fokuserede, kedelige omtale af netop disse racer i pressen sidste forår og sommer. Der er ikke lave statistiske undersøgelser, der underbygger, at de er farlige", fastslår Pernille Hansen.

Fagfolk /Eksperter fra udlandet:

Dr. Dorit Feddersen – Petersen

"Ud fra et etologisk synspunkt findes der ikke "kamphunderacer" eller "farlige racer".

Det er naturvidenskabeligt uholdbart at tilskrive en hunderace i sig selv farlighed, altså uden at tage hensyn til samspillet mellem det genetisk betingede handlingsberedskab og den obligatoriske forudgående læring, som er individuel og højst forskelligt.

Ud fra et biologisk synspunkt er virkningerne af miljø og læring altid lagt ovenpå den genetiske indflydelse".

Så selv om kamphunde/ muskelhunde skulle være genetisk forprogrammeret for "patologisk aggression", så er der en masse samspillende miljøfaktorer - tidlig isolation og dressur til at angribe, stimulusfattige produktionssteder og forarmet hundehold (Dorit Feddersen-Petersen,2001) - der har indflydelse på udviklingen af patologisk aggression.

Hvis ikke dette var tilfældet, så ville man heller ikke behøve at mishandle hunde brugt til hundekampe med f.eks. at begrave dem levende (og grave dem op igen), putte peber i næsen på dem, fodre dem med kød blandet med krudt eller lukke dem inde i et skab (Melinda Roth,2002)

Canine Genetics and Behavior

To state that a breed of dog is aggressive is scientifically impossible.

Statistics do not support such a finding. Dogs have been domesticated for thousands of years and within all breeds there can be dangerous dogs because of owner issues such as training the dog to attack, lack of training and socialization.

There is no such thing as the "Mean Gene" in dogs as well as in people. However mutant genes have been discovered. Alteration of a single DNA base in the gene encoding an enzyme called monoamine oxidase A (MAOA) has been found to render the

enzyme nonfunctional. This enzyme normally catalyzes reactions that metabolize the neurotransmitters dopamine, serotonin, and noradrenaline. What this does is cause slight mental impairment which interferes with the ability to cope with certain situations resulting in aggression.

There is no proof and there never has been that the American Pit Bull Terrier possesses mutant genes.

There is a one in ten thousand chance of a mutant gene appearing in a population.

Dr M Malini DVM

Victoria Stilwell It's so needless. There are effective alternatives besides passing laws about certain types of dogs in order to avoid more tragic dog attacks on children. It starts with education.

And to all of those calling out for the pitbull breeds to be banned, Breed Specific Legislation (BSL), does not work! Britain, other countries, and several US states have banned pitbulls and/or certain other breeds for decades and yet child deaths from dog attacks are continuing to rise. BSL addresses the wrong end of the leash. We need to be focusing on owners and their ultimate responsibility for the animal in their care. So regardless of how you feel about the politics of the debate, the end results of such legislation speak the loudest – BSL doesn't make the world a safer place. Let's concentrate on the deed and not the breed and give full focus to keeping children safe around all dogs.

Dr. Randall Lockwood, one of the authors of the CDC's "Breeds of Dogs," as well as a member of the AVMA Task Force, submitted an affidavit in 2007 in opposition to the breed ban currently in effect in Denver, Colorado. He stated, in part: "Focusing on a single breed as the 'source' of the dog bite problem reflects a 19th century epidemiological mindset that attempts to identify the vector of a public health problem and eliminate that vector. . . The dog bite problem is not a disease problem with a single vector, it is a complex societal issue that must address a wide range of human behaviors in ways that deal with irresponsible behavior that puts people and animals at risk."

The CDC has published a statement that the single-vector approach in "Breeds of Dogs" does not "identify specific breeds that are most likely to bite or kill, and thus is not appropriate for policy-making decisions related to the topic." The AVMA has published and distributed a comparable statement.

The AVMA Task Force went further: "An often-asked question is what breed or breeds of dogs are 'most dangerous'? This inquiry can be prompted by a serious attack by a specific dog, or it may be the result of media-driven portrayals of a specific breed as 'dangerous.' Singling out 1 or 2 breeds for control ignores the true scope of the problem and will not result in a responsible approach to protecting a community's citizens."

Den Engelske Kennel Klub - Deal With The Deed, Not The Breed'

The Kennel Club's position continues to be one of 'deal with the deed, not the breed', based on the circumstances of individual occurrences and it believes that it is unacceptable to ban all dogs of a specific breed based on the actions of a single animal. The KC believes every dog should be considered on its individual character as to whether it represents a danger to people.

Furthermore, there are various factors that breed specific legislation ignores that contribute to biting incidents and the Kennel Club maintains that irresponsible ownership is the most common. Instead of a law concerning the criminal and/or anti-social behaviour of some owners and the ignorance and misinformation of others, what currently exists is legislation that punishes a dog simply for the way it looks.

The Kennel Club continues to play an active role in lobbying against the injustices of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 (the KC runs the Secretariat for the Dangerous Dogs Act Study Group (DDASG)) in conjunction with other organisations such as the Metropolitan Police, various welfare organisations including: Dogs Trust, Blue Cross, Battersea Dogs and Cats Home and Wood

Green Animal Shelter and representatives from the veterinary profession. In conjunction with these organisations, the Kennel Club has established objectives for a review of dangerous dog's legislation. Our goal is for these objectives to be introduced as new legislation under a Control of Dogs Act.

Professor Tamer Dodurka - "Dog experts bite back at Turkey's pit bull ban"

The government's issuing of orders to round up pit bulls and other "dangerous" breeds was an unfortunate, unscientific decision, experts have said, calling for assessments of individual dogs rather than a total ban. Dogs of all breeds rather than just a specific few must take temperament tests, and those categorized as dangerous must be forbidden and taken under supervision," said Tamer Dodurka, a professor at Istanbul University's Veterinary Faculty, daily Milliyet reported Tuesday.

Taking calm dogs that have never caused harm to anyone from their owners just because they are pit bulls is illogical, Dodurka said, adding that the country's animal shelters are already full of dogs and will not accept animals of the four breeds banned by authorities.

Norsk Kennel Klub - NKK er sterkt uenig i dansk hundeforbud

Norsk Kennel Klub er sterkt uenig i den danske regjeringens vedtak om å forby 13 hunderaser. – Ingen raser er i utgangspunktet farlige. Hunder som biter er et hundeeierproblem, ikke et raseproblem, hevder NKK.

Norsk Kennel Klub (NKK) er sterkt uenig i den danske regjeringens avgjørelse, og mener de har valgt feil strategi. NKK holder fast ved at ingen raser bør forbys og at hunder som biter ikke er et raseproblem, men et hundeeierproblem.

Hvorvidt en hund biter er avhengig av flere forhold:

- Genetikk
- Tidlig sosialisering
- Erfaring og trening
- Fysisk og mental helse
- Atferden til den som blir bitt

Et ansvarlig hundehold er essensielt, og det bør derfor være like mye fokus på hundeeieren som på hunden!

Humane Society of the United States (HSUS)

HSUS Statement on Dangerous Dogs and Breed-Specific Legislation

The HSUS opposes legislation aimed at eradicating or strictly regulating dogs based solely on their breed for a number of reasons. Breed Specific Legislation (BSL) is a common first approach that many communities take. Thankfully, once research is conducted most community leaders correctly realize that BSL won't solve the problems they face with dangerous dogs.

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA)

Position Statement on Breed-Specific Legislation (excerpt—please visit the link for lengthy background materials, references, sample breed-neutral laws, and discussion).

It is, therefore, the ASPCA's position to oppose any state or local law to regulate or ban dogs based on breed. The ASPCA recognizes that dangerous dogs pose a community problem requiring serious attention.

However, in light of the absence of scientific data indicating the efficacy of breed-specific laws, and the unfair and inhumane targeting of responsible pet guardians and their dogs that inevitably results when these laws are enacted, the ASPCA instead favors effective enforcement of a combination of breed-neutral laws that hold reckless dog guardians accountable for their dogs' aggressive behavior.

AVMA Position on Dangerous Animal Legislation - Dangerous Animal Legislation (Current as of November 2005)

The AVMA supports dangerous animal legislation by state, county, or municipal governments provided that legislation does not refer to specific breeds or classes of animals. This legislation should be directed at fostering safety and protection of the general public from animals classified as dangerous.

National Animal Control Association Policy Statement

Extended Animal Control Concerns – Dangerous/Vicious Animals

POLICY STATEMENT

Dangerous and/or vicious animals should be labeled as such as a result of their actions or behavior and not because of their breed.

BASIS FOR POLICY

Any animal may exhibit aggressive behavior regard-less of breed. Accurately identifying a specific animal's lineage for prosecution purposes may be extremely difficult. Additionally, breed specific legislation may create an undue burden to owners who otherwise have demonstrated proper pet management and responsibility.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Agencies should encourage enactment and stringent enforcement of dangerous/vicious dog laws. When applicable, agencies should not hesitate to prosecute owners for murder, manslaughter, or similar violations resulting from their animal's actions, and their owner lack of responsibility. Laws should clearly define "dangerous" or "vicious", and provide for established penalties. Penalties may include fines, imprisonment, and/or the relinquishing of total privileges to pet ownership. If a dangerous/vicious animal is allowed to be kept, laws should specify methods of secure confinement and control. A dangerous/vicious animal when kept outside should be confined in an escape-proof enclosure which is locked and secured on all six sides. Signs should be posted at property entrances and be visible from the nearest sidewalk or street. The licensing record could include a notation which will immediately identify an animal which has been deemed dangerous or vicious.

American Humane - Dangerous Dog Laws and Breed-Specific Regulations

American Humane believes that no breed of dog automatically poses a high risk of attack, and that it is unjust to punish loving, responsible dog owners merely because of a breed's reputation. American Humane supports efforts to protect members of the community from dangerous animals and encourages communities to hold pet owners responsible for any injury caused by animals in their care. American Humane also encourages dog owners to undergo basic obedience training with their pets and to socialize them with people and other animals from an early age.

By definition, dangerous dogs are dogs that, without provocation, have attacked or behaved in a terrorizing manner. In order to protect the public from these types of animals, communities may legitimately enact "dangerous dog" laws. Such laws may impose reasonable restrictions on dogs proven to be dangerous, such as housing requirements, fencing, leash length restrictions, muzzles, posted warning signs, sterilization, additional licensing, behavior training and liability insurance requirements. Any dog, whether or not previously labeled as dangerous, that has attacked humans or domestic animals may be euthanized when local laws and jurisprudence are followed. The owner should be given a period of time and a process by which to appeal, and should be required to post a bond for the care of the animal during the appeal.

American Humane opposes legislation that seeks to ban a particular breed of dog. Such laws provide a false sense of security as all dogs, when improperly treated or trained, can present a risk to public health. Breedspecific legislation that outlaws specific breeds of dogs can increase the danger to the community by spawning black market interest, indiscriminate and irresponsible breeding practices, and subsequent overpopulation issues.

American Humane is also concerned by reports that a number of insurance companies have adopted policies that deny homeowner coverage to owners of particular breeds of dogs. Insurance companies concerned with the risk of dog-bite-related claims can seek information on the dog's behavioral history, require pets to undergo training, or determine whether a dog is a high insurance risk on a case-by-case basis. American Humane opposes any policy that denies insurance coverage to all owners of certain breeds of dogs.

American Kennel Club Position Statement - “Dangerous Dog” Control Legislation

The American Kennel Club supports reasonable, enforceable, non-discriminatory laws to govern the ownership of dogs. The AKC believes that dog owners should be responsible for their dogs. We support laws that: establish a fair process by which specific dogs are identified as “dangerous” based on stated, measurable actions; impose appropriate penalties on irresponsible owners; and establish a well-defined method for dealing with dogs proven to be dangerous. We believe that, if necessary, dogs proven to be “dangerous” may need to be humanely destroyed. The American Kennel Club strongly opposes any legislation that determines a dog to be “dangerous” based on specific breeds or phenotypic classes of dogs.

National Association of Dog Obedience Instructors - Regarding breed-specific legislation

The National Association of Dog Obedience Instructors, Inc. (NADOI) strongly opposes breed specific legislation which targets or discriminates against certain dogs based only on their breed or appearance.

Such laws are unfair because they assume that a dog may be dangerous simply because of breed. In fact, it is almost always the behavior of the owners of these dogs which makes them a danger to others.

Since 1965, NADOI has worked to help people train their dogs to be well behaved. Also, NADOI educates dog owners about their responsibility not only to their dogs but to their communities. Ordinances against dangerous dogs, unattended and loose dogs, nuisance barking, and other objectionable dog behaviors should be enacted and aggressively enforced. These laws, unlike breed specific laws, force all dog owners to be responsible for the behavior of their dogs.

Approved by the Board of Directors, June 2004.

Association of Pet Dog Trainers - The following statements reflect the opinion of the Association of Pet Dog Trainers The Association of Pet dog Trainers (APDT) supports the adoption or enforcement of a program for the control of potentially dangerous or vicious dogs that is fair, non-discriminatory and addresses dogs that are shown to be dangerous by their actions. The APDT opposes any law that deems a dog as dangerous or vicious based on appearance, breed or phenotype. Canine temperaments are widely varied, and behavior cannot be predicted by physical features such as head shape, coat length, muscle to bone ratio, etc. The only predictor of behavior is behavior.

As an organization comprised of dog trainers, behaviorists and other animal professionals, the APDT is fully aware that any dog can bite, any dog can maim, and any dog can kill. A dangerous or vicious dog is a product of a combination of individual genetics, upbringing, socialization, and lack of proper training. The solution to preventing dog bites is education of owners, breeders, and the general public about aggression prevention, not legislation directed at certain breeds.

Singling out and publicly demonizing certain breeds as dangerous is unfair, discriminatory, and does an immense disservice to those breeds and the people who care about them. Even more chilling, breed specific legislation encourages the faulty public perception of other breeds as being inherently safe. This can lead misguided individuals to engage in unsafe conduct with other breeds that can result in injury or death by individual representatives of those breeds mistakenly perceived as safe. Also, designating certain breeds as inherently dangerous implies to the public that behavior is not effectively influenced, positively or negatively, by training. This misconception will likely produce a growing number of dangerous dogs as misinformed, complacent dog owners fail to practice responsible aggression-prevention measures.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

A CDC study on fatal dog bites lists the breeds involved in fatal attacks over 20 years (Breeds of dogs involved in fatal human attacks in the United States between 1979 and 1998). It does not identify specific breeds that are most likely to bite or kill, and thus is not appropriate for policy-making decisions related to the topic. Each year, 4.7 million Americans are bitten by dogs. These bites result in approximately 16 fatalities; about 0.0002 percent of the total number of people bitten. These relatively few fatalities offer the only available information about breeds involved in dog bites. There is currently no accurate way to identify the number of dogs of a particular breed, and consequently no measure to determine which breeds are more likely to bite or kill. Many practical alternatives to breed-specific policies exist and hold promise for preventing dog bites. For prevention ideas and

model policies for control of dangerous dogs, please see the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Task Force on Canine Aggression and Human-Canine Interactions: A community approach to dog bite prevention.

International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants - Position Statement on Breed-Specific

Legislation:

The International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants (IAABC) is an organization representing professional animal trainers and animal behavior specialists. The IAABC strongly opposes any legislation specifically designed to target or discriminate against dogs based solely on their breed or appearance. The IAABC does not believe that a dog poses a danger to society solely because of its breed. Dogs can become dangerous as a result of faulty socialization, inappropriate training, poor living conditions and other factors having nothing to do with their breed. The IAABC believes that the objectives behind breed specific legislation can be met more effectively through rigorous enforcement and, where necessary, the strengthening of existing laws. We fully understand and support the need for laws to protect society, human and animal alike; however, our organization feels that any new legislation should be based on specific behaviors or actions and should not discriminate based on breed alone.

American Working Dog Federation

The American Working Dog Federation is a National organization that exists to preserve the heritage of all working dog breeds. Made up of 10 different breed clubs and over 8000 members, the AWDF acts as a national advocate by providing information to the media, the public in general and other canine organizations. The AWDF implements programs for education of its membership, the canine community and the public at large. The AWDF and all of its member clubs shall oppose any illegal activity involving dogs.

The AWDF and it's members support reasonable, enforceable, non-discriminatory laws that allow responsible dog owners to exist harmoniously within their communities. The AWDF does not support breed specific restrictions and/ or restrictions of working dogs or dogs in sport. The AWDF believes that a dangerous dog should be defined by it's actions rather than phenotype. The AWDF strongly opposes breed specific legislation. We believe that dog owners deserve the right to prove themselves worthy by educating themselves and their dogs through proper training and by remaining responsible, no matter what breed they choose to own.

Dog owners across the United States make up for more than 44% of the actual votes tallied. We, as the American Working Dog Federation, support legislators who work with their constituents to find proactive solutions to irresponsible dog owners and dangerous dogs, no matter what breed. Dog owners who elect officials into public office are counting on their legislators to preserve their rights as long as they remain responsible and the American Working Dog Federation stand beside them in unity.

International Association of Canine Professionals - Position Statement on Breed Specific Legislation

The International Association of Canine Professionals strongly opposes legislation which discriminates against dogs and their owners by labeling certain dogs as "dangerous" or "vicious" based on breed or phenotype. Breed-specific legislation does not protect communities nor create a more responsible dog owner. Instead it negatively affects many law abiding dog owners and dogs within the targeted breeds.

Breed or breed type is only one factor which determines an individual dog's temperament. Many other factors also influence behavior. In the case of aggressive acts by dogs, factors may include, but are not limited to: genetic predisposition; irresponsible handling; lack of animal management; general care; improper socialization and training; poor housing conditions; physical ailment, and lack of education and supervision.

A common and serious error in the 'assumption of risk by breed' is the inability to identify individual dogs by breed, according to an established breed standard or breed type. Purebred dogs which are registered with national clubs may or may not fit the ideal standard for their breed. As dogs are further distanced from the "ideal" standard by phenotype, especially in mixed breeds, it may become all but impossible for accurate identification.

The vast majority of dogs typically affected by breed-specific legislation are not "dangerous" by any standard.

Their physical appearance alone cannot be used as an indicator of an aggressive nature. Breed-specific

legislation creates an undue burden on responsible owners of targeted breeds – dogs which are most often not dangerous to their communities.

Enforcing breed-specific laws is extremely difficult. It requires funding which would otherwise be available for the enforcement of more effective laws which target truly dangerous dogs on an individual basis. It is also costly to the court system.

Limiting the risk of dog bites should be the legal responsibility of the dog owner. The IACP believes in the importance of educating owners in the proper selection, care, socialization and training of dogs. We also recognize the importance of teaching the general public, and especially children, in bite prevention skills and techniques.

The IACP supports the creation and enforcement of laws which protect responsible dog owners while at the same time promote the safety of all. We support laws which penalize irresponsible dog owners on an individual basis. Current animal control laws should be enforced. In many communities, laws allow officials to confiscate the individual dog who has proven dangerous. This, along with the education we advocate, will help the public not to simply feel safer, but actually to be safer. A very small minority of dogs pose any significant threat to humans. Dog ownership, on the whole, improves quality of life for countless families. Members of the National Animal Control Association, the ASPCA, the Association of Pet Dog Trainers, and many other canine welfare groups deal with aggressive dogs on a regular basis. So do these major animal organizations support breed-specific legislation? No. In fact, none of these professional groups do.



FVE POSITION ON DANGEROUS DOGS

Background

Over the last few decades the ownership of dogs primarily as companion animals has increased in the urban population, with benefits for the individual and the community. But, inevitably, it has also had some drawbacks.

Members

Austria
Belgium
Croatia
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Denmark
Estonia
Finland
France
FYROM
Germany
Greece
Hungary
Iceland
Ireland
Italy
Latvia
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Malta
Netherlands
Norway
Poland
Portugal
Romania
Slovak Republic
Slovenia
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
United Kingdom
Yugoslavia

Dog bite injuries have recently received increased publicity. Serious incidents involving dangerous dogs in several Member States have sparked fierce reactions and have led some Member States to call for a Community initiative to address this problem. This should however be seen in the context that the majority of dogs never bite anyone.

Dog bite injuries may be caused by various factors such as uncontrolled playing behaviour, lack of training, fear, pain, inappropriate offensive or defensive reactions. Sometimes dogs are also used as a weapon by criminals or are kept for fighting purposes.

To attempt to control these negative aspects of the dog-human interaction different countries have implemented various legislative measures. These measures can be divided into two categories. The first addressing the behaviour of the individual dog and the second addressing the behaviour of certain breeds or breed types.

Current situation

- Although some countries have adopted breed-specific measures, there is no scientific or statistic evidence to suggest that these effectively reduce the frequency or severity of injuries to people.
- To date, no scientific criteria have been identified by which it can be determined that a dog is dangerous by simply describing its racial or other physical parameters.
- Breed-specific legislation has been shown to be difficult to apply due to the problem of defining breeds and breed types. This has been a major source of controversy.
- Breed-specific legislation engenders a false and dangerous perception that breeds not included will not show aggression. Aggression is a normal behaviour and can be shown by any dog of any breed, type or mixed breeding.
- Breed-specific legislation does not discriminate between individual members of a breed, many of which may not be predisposed to aggressive behaviour. Rather, all dogs of a specific breed, whatever their behaviour, are subject to the same restrictions.

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Way Forward

FVE strongly believes that the most effective means of preventing and controlling aggression is to direct measures at the individual dog and its owner.

In particular, since part of the problem originates from the criminal use of dogs by well known individuals, measures to control this should be taken directly towards them.

However because of the lack of reliable scientific data, it is proposed that further research is conducted with the aim of developing tools which will allow a proper risk analysis of the aggressive behaviour of individual dogs.

a) Education

- Education of owners and of dogs will lead to a more responsible attitude to ownership and decrease the risk to the public. There is a variety of opinion relating to the education of dogs and owners and this area requires further development.

b) Identification

- Effective measures will require mandatory identification of all dogs in the European Community. This is the only way to link an individual dog involved in an aggressive incident with the person legally responsible for that animal, to collect and exchange data and to do epidemiological and statistical research.
- A central database in every EU member state to collect data on dogs involved in aggressive incidents will also be required.

c) Research programmes

- Preliminary results in the fields of behaviour, genetics, neuro-psychology and physiology suggest that scientific protocols can be developed to address the issues of breeding, individual assessment and education.
- Comprehensive surveys on dog bites are required both to provide background information and to allow for the monitoring of the efficacy of any control measures.

d) Testing programmes

- There is some evidence that aggressive behaviour has an inherited component. Thus it is important to determine the genes involved and to develop controlled and responsible breeding programmes, supported by simple testing procedures.
- Behaviour is also influenced by the environment, in which the animal develops and lives. Thus, the testing of the individual dog's predisposition to show aggression can allow owners to take appropriate steps to prevent any incidents. Such testing procedures are still in their infancy and require further development. Existing procedures, though scientifically validated, are to be extended so that it becomes feasible to apply them on a large scale.

Recommendations

FVE urges the European Commission and Member States to:

1. Promote education and training of dogs, dog owners and dog professionals such as veterinarians and trainers.
2. Postpone the adoption of further breed-specific legislation until a proper risk analysis has been carried out.
3. Introduce a mandatory identification for all dogs, which is compatible across the European Union.
4. Encourage research, through the 5th Framework Research Program for example, in such fields as:
 - dog behaviour and its genetical, neuro-physiological and ethological background,
 - dog bites monitoring,
 - education and training of dogs, dog owners and dog professionals such as veterinarians and trainers.