

CDC AND AVMA: “OUR RESEARCH DOES NOT SUPPORT BREED SPECIFIC LEGISLATION.”

Almost every proponent of discriminatory, breed specific legislation relies on one ten year old study to make their case¹. Both the Centers for Disease Control and the American Veterinary Medical Association have warned that the findings of that study are not an argument for breed legislation of any kind.



“[The study] 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... 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.”

- Centers for Disease Control Statement

*“In contrast to what has been reported in the news media, the data...**CANNOT** be used to infer any breed-specific risk for dog bite fatalities...”*

- AVMA Statement

Why debate what the experts have already concluded?

THERE IS NO SCIENTIFICALLY VALID EVIDENCE AND NO REASONABLE ARGUMENT TO SUPPORT BREED SPECIFIC LEGISLATION.

“If anyone says one dog is more likely to kill - unless there's a study out there that I haven't seen - that's not based on scientific data.”

*Julie Gilchrist/MD, Centers for Disease Control
Co-Author, JAVMA Special Report*

For a better alternative to breed-specific policies, the CDC recommends “a community approach to dog bite prevention” from the American Veterinary Medical Association. (AVMA) Task Force on Canine Aggression and Human-Canine Interactions (http://www.avma.org/public_health/dogbite/dogbite.pdf)

¹ (“Breeds of Dogs Involved in Fatal Human Attacks in the United States between 1979 and 1998” JAVMA Vol. 217, 2000)