

Dangerous Dogs Act Breakthrough: RSPCA Back Calls For Immediate End to BSL

January 7, 2009 by [Alison Green](#) In a landmark event, the UK's largest animal welfare charity the RSPCA has joined forces with [DDAWatch](#) and the [Coalition For improved Dog Ownership Standards \(C-fidos\)](#) to publicly call for an end to the unfair law that results in dogs being deemed 'dangerous' as a result of their physical appearance.

For the first time, the UK's most prominent animal welfare organisation has been prepared to publicly support calls for a repeal of section 1 of the Dangerous Dogs Act (DDA) - Section 1 is the part of the legislation which bans dogs based on their breed or type.

Section 1 of the 1991 Dangerous Dogs Act is a highly controversial and widely criticised clause that promotes breed specific legislation. Many experts, law makers and dog lovers from around the UK and globally have seen the devastation caused by breed specific legislation - which outlaws dogs by 'type', meaning a dog is deemed 'dangerous' and illegal simply based on what it looks like and not because of any offence caused by the dog. As a result of breed specific legislation (BSL) in the UK, many innocent dogs have lost their lives since the law was brought in by Ken Baker in 1991.

Now the RSPCA has set the wheels in motion for other prominent welfare groups to come out and publicly call on the law makers to end section 1 and replace it with fair, effective dog laws which do not condemn dogs to death based on what they look like. The UK can put itself in a position to follow the example set by the Netherlands in repealing section 1 in favour of a law that will place the burden of responsibility on owners rather than terminating the lives of dogs who are guilty of nothing more than looking a certain way.

The move comes about following a productive and engaging meeting between the RSPCA's Government Relations Manager, Claire Robinson, DDAWatch and the C-fidos at the end of 2008.

Author Details

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<http://www.dogmagazine.net/archives/1645/dangerous-dogs-act-breakthrough-rspca-back-calls-for-immediate-end-to-bsl/>