

# BREED-SPECIFIC REGULATION NOT A BASIS FOR DOG BITE PREVENTION

## AVMA ANIMAL WELFARE DIVISION EXPERTS REPORT

An American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Animal Welfare Division exhaustive review of dog bite studies updated in 2015 concluded that targeting ‘pit bull-type’ dogs, or any other, “as a basis for dog bite prevention is unfounded.” The AVMA authors cite dozens of peer-reviewed studies that report a variety of breeds and types of dogs in connection with injuries to people.<sup>1</sup>

The authors examined a body of literature covering 40+ years. The published reports came from the United States, as well as from Canada, the United Kingdom, Denmark, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Ireland, Italy, Spain, and the Netherlands. These varying reports confirmed the ineffectiveness of breed-specific legislation. According to the AVMA experts, “...there is no evidence that breed-specific bans reduce the rate or severity of bite injuries...” Similar conclusions have been reached from published studies in the years since the report as well.<sup>2</sup>

**“...there is no evidence that breed-specific bans reduce the rate or severity of bite injuries...”**

**“Breed is a poor sole predictor of dog bites.”**

The authors of the AVMA report that “breed is a poor sole predictor of dog bites.”

Animal experts worldwide concur.

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### SOURCES and NOTES:

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. For more information on the current state of research on breed-specific legislation see the National Canine Research Council website.

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