



## **Breed-Specific Legislation and How It Can Affect You**

Breed-specific legislation (BSL) is a law that bans OR restricts certain types of dogs based on their appearance, usually because they are perceived as “dangerous” breeds or types of dogs.

A breed **ban** usually requires that all dogs of a certain appearance (“targeted breed”) be removed from the municipality wherein the ban has been implemented. After the effective date of the ban, dogs in the municipality that are identified as targeted breeds are usually subject to being killed by animal control, though in some cases, such dogs may be saved if relocation is an option. Breed bans may have grandfather clauses that allow dogs of targeted breeds to stay in the ban area (provided they are registered with the municipality by a certain date, and likely subject to various breed-specific restrictions).

Breed-specific **restrictions** may require an owner of a targeted breed do any of the following or more, depending on how the law is written:

- Muzzle the dog in public
- Spay or neuter the dog
- Contain the dog in a kennel with specific requirements (6’ chain link walls, lid, concrete floors, etc.)
- Keep the dog on a leash of specific length or material
- Purchase liability insurance of a certain amount
- Place “vicious dog” signs on the outside of the residence where the dog lives
- Make the dog wear a “vicious dog” tag or other identifying marker

Breed-specific legislation applies only to dogs of a certain appearance, not to any and all dogs. It does not take into account how the owner has raised, trained, or managed the dog. It does not take into account the dog’s actual behavior. ([stopbsl.org](http://stopbsl.org))

The following lists display cities and counties that currently have breed bans in place. The term “pit bull” refers to American Pit Bull Terriers, American Staffordshire Terriers, and Staffordshire Bull Terriers. BSL does not only target pure bred dogs. Mixed breeds showing a strong resemblance to the targeted breed are very likely to be affected by BSL.

**Cities/Counties with Breed Bans**

**Arkansas:**

**Bans: Pit Bulls-** Batesville, Bebee, Cabot, Caddo Valley, Dierks, Jacksonville, Lake Village, Lonoke, Maumelle, Mayflower, Mineral Springs, Mountain Home, Murfreesboro, Nashville, North Little Rock, Pine Bluff, Prescott, Russellville, Sherwood, and Truman

**Bans: Pit Bulls and American Bulldogs-** Lake City

**Bans: Pit Bulls and Rottweilers-** Salem

**Alabama:**

**Bans: Pit Bulls-** Center Point, Clay, Fayette, Fultondale, Gardendale, Mountain Brook

**Bans: Pit Bulls and Presa Canarios-** Irondale, Lanett

**Colorado:**

**Bans: Pit Bulls-** Aurora, Castle Rock, Commerce City, Denver, Fort Lupton, La Junta, Louisville

**Bans: Pit Bulls, American Bulldogs, Dogo Argentinos, Canary Dogs, Presa**

**Mallorquins, Tosa Inus, Cane Corsos, and Fila Brasileiros-** Lone Tree

**Florida:**

**Bans: Pit Bulls-** Miami-Dade County

**Idaho:**

**Bans: Pit Bulls-** Fruitland, Payette County

**Illinois:**

**Bans: Pit Bulls-** Aledo, Barry, East Dubuque, Pawnee, Village of Addison, Village of Golf

**Indiana:**

**Bans: Pit Bulls-** East Chicago, Fowler

**Iowa:**

**Bans: Pit Bulls-** Anita, Armstrong, Asbury, Aurelia, Audobon County, Avoca, Belle Plaine, Cascade, Carter Lake, Chariton, Correctionville, Council Bluffs, Dayton, Delhi, Dyersville, Edgewood, Elberon,

Ely, Emmetsburg, Estherville, Fairfax, Fertile, Forest City, Fruitland, Glenwood, Griswold, Guttenberg, Hartley, Hawarden, Holy Cross, Hopkinton, La Porte City, Lake View, Laurens, Lewis, Logan, Manly, Maquoketa, Middletown, Missouri Valley, Monticello, Muscatine, Newell, Ottumwa, Palo, Postville, Robins, Sergeant Bluff, Shelby, Shell Rock, Sioux City, Terril, Vinton, Walcott, Wayland, West Union

**Bans: Pit Bulls and Rottweilers-** Alburnett, Altoona, Anamosa, Conrad, Denver, Randolph, Sac City, Waukon

**Bans: Pit Bulls, Rottweilers, and Presa Canarios-** Centerville

**Kansas:**

**Bans: Pit Bulls-** Baldwin City, Chanute, Clay Center, De Soto, Dodge City, Edgerton, El Dorado, Fort Scott, Hillsboro, Independence, Junction City, Kingman, Leawood, Liberal, Maize, Neodesha, Overland Park, Park City, Parsons, Pittsburg, Prairie Village, Roeland Park, Salina, Shawnee, Spring Hill, Sterling, Ulysses, Wyandotte County

**Bans: Pit Bulls and Presa Canarios-** Arkansas City

**Bans: Pit Bulls and Rottweilers-** Belleville, Frontenac, Hesston, Marion, Tonganoxie

**Bans: Pit Bulls and Mastiffs-** Concordia

**Bans: Pit Bulls and Wolf Hybrids-** Pratt

**Kentucky:**

**Bans: Pit Bulls-** Alexandria, Augusta, Bracken County, Butler, Dayton, Elsmere, Falmouth, Fort Thomas, Lewis County, Ludlow, Pendleton County, Southgate, Walton

**Louisiana:**

**Bans: Pit Bulls-** Kindner, Mamou, Morgan City, New Llano, St. Francisville, Westwego, Winnfield

**Maryland:**

**Bans: Pit Bulls-** Canton, Rockland

**Michigan:**

**Bans: Pit Bulls-** Alma, Ecorse, Grosse Pointe Park, Grosse Pointe Woods, Highland Park, Kingsford, Melvindale, Muskegon Heights, Newaygo, Sylvan Lake, Tawas City, Waterford Charter Township, West Branch

**Mississippi:**

**Bans: Pit Bulls-** Brandon, Carthage, Clinton, Collins, Ellisville, Indianola, Macon, Morton, New Albany

**Bans: Pit Bulls and Rottweilers-** Clinton, Collins

**Bans: Pit Bulls and Wolf Hybrids-** Morton, Ridgeland

**Missouri:**

**Bans: Pit Bulls-** Airport Drive, Ashland, Berkeley, Boonville, Buckner, California, Camdenton, Cameron, Carl Junction, Carthage, Center, Charlack, Clayton, Crystal Lake Park, Dexter, Fayette, Fenton, Ferguson, Florissant, Independence, Kearney, Kennett, Liberty, Montgomery City, New Madrid, New Florence, New London, Normandy, Northwoods, Oronogo, Pagedale, Palmyra, Pine Lawn, Platte City, Poplar Bluff, Richmond, Riverside, Shrewsbury, Springfield, Trenton, Troy, Vinita Park, Warsaw, Webb City, Windsor

**Bans: Pit Bulls and Rottweilers-** Normandy, Northwoods

**Bans: Pit Bulls, Chinesischer Kampfhunds, Chows, Doberman Pinschers, and Rottweilers-** Pilot Grove

**Montana:**

**Bans: Pit Bulls-** Libby

**Bans: Pit Bulls and Wolf Hybrids-** Baker, Lincoln County

**Nebraska:**

**Bans: Pit Bulls-** Auburn, Ceresco, Gordon, Minden, Rushville

**Bans: Pit Bulls, Rottweilers, and Doberman Pinschers-** Loup

**Bans: Pit Bulls, Chows, Doberman Pinschers, Rottweilers, American Bandogge Mastiffs, and Neopolitan Mastiffs-** Osceola

**New Mexico:**

**Bans: Pit Bulls-** Tijeras

**New York:**

**Bans: Pit Bulls-** Larchmont

**Bans: Pit Bulls, Rottweilers, and Doberman Pinschers-** New York Housing Authority

**North Carolina:**

**Bans: Pit Bulls-** Edenton

**North Dakota:**

**Bans: Pit Bulls-** Des Lacs, Minot, Watford City, Williston

**Bans: Pit Bulls, Rottweilers, Doberman Pinschers-** Kenmare

**Ohio:**

**Bans: Pit Bulls-** Bexley, Canfield, Fairborn, Fairfield, Gallipolis, Garfield Heights, Girard, Greenhills, Lakewood, Mansfield, New Lexington, Norwood, Parma, Reynoldsburg, Rome Township, Sharonville, Shelby, Village of South Point, Warrensville Heights, Wooster, Youngstown

**Oklahoma:**

**Bans: Pit Bulls-** Spiro

**Rhode Island:**

**Bans: Pit Bulls-** Central Falls, Pawtucket

**Bans: Pit Bulls, Rottweilers, Doberman Pinschers, Akitas, Chows, German Shepherds, Huskies, and Malemutes-** Woonsocket Housing Authority

**South Dakota**

**Bans: Pit Bulls-** Marion, Spencer

**Bans: Pit Bulls, Rottweilers, and Doberman Pinschers-** Helca, Hurley

**Bans: Pit Bulls, Rottweilers, Doberman Pinschers, Bullmastiffs, and German Shepherds-** Leola

**Tennessee**

**Bans: Pit Bulls-** Brownsville, Ducktown, Dyer, Etowah, Selmer, South Pittsburg, Sparta

**Utah**

**Bans: Pit Bulls-** Delta City, Fillmore City, Morgan City, South Jordan

**Vermont**

**Bans: Pit Bulls-** Highgate, Saint Albans

**Washington**

**Bans: Pit Bulls-** Brewster, Bridgeport, Buckely, Cathlamet, Enumclaw, Othello, Rosalia, Selah, Sumas, Yakima

**Bans: Pit Bulls and Rottweilers-** Royal City

**Bans: Pit Bulls, Rottweilers, Mastiffs, and American Bulldogs-** Wapato

**West Virginia**

**Bans: Pit Bulls-** Bluefield, Ceredo

## **Wisconsin**

**Bans: Pit Bulls-** Arpin, Bloomer, Fox Lake, Greenwood, Hewitt, Juneau, Montello, Neillsville, Niagra, Ripon, St. Francis, Somerset, South Milwaukee, Village of Baldwin, Village of Dane, Village of Stratford, Village of Westfield, Village of Woodville, Waunakee, Weyauwega, Yorkville

## **Wyoming**

**Bans: Pit Bulls, Hybrid Coyotes, and Wolf Hybrids-** Ranchester

## **Military**

**Bans: Pit Bulls-** Andrews Air Force Base, Hill Air Force Base, Keesler Air Force Base, Naval Station Newport

**Bans: Pit Bulls, Bull Terriers, Rottweilers, Doberman Pinschers, Chows, and Wolf Hybrids-** All U.S. Army Bases

**Bans: Pit Bulls, Rottweilers, and Wolf Hybrids-** All U.S. Marine Corps Bases, Kirtland Air Force Base

**Bans: Pit Bulls and Rottweilers-** All Air Force Space Command Bases, Schriever Air Force Base,

**Bans: Pit Bulls, Rottweilers, and Doberman Pinschers-** Barksdale Air Force Base, Ellsworth Air Force Base, Goodfellow Air Force Base, Maxwell-Gunter Air Force Base, McGuire Air Force Base

**Bans: Pit Bulls, Rottweilers, Doberman Pinschers, Chows, Akitas, and Wolf Hybrids-** Ft. Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield, Lackland Air Force Base

**Bans: Pit Bulls, Rottweilers, Doberman Pinschers, Chows, Akitas, and American Bulldogs-** Naval Station Jacksonville

**Bans: Pit Bulls and American Bulldogs-** Naval Submarine Base new London

Be sure to check with your city and county for the most current information. Also check city/county ordinances and policies for any breed restrictions before moving to a new area. Vicious dog ordinances, for example, may declare specific breeds as dangerous and require dog owners of such breeds to purchase a specific amount of liability insurance.

## How You Can Help Stop Breed Discrimination

### 1) Train and Socialize Your Pup!

The best way to show others how amazing your breed of choice can be is by training them to be a positive role model for the community. A well trained dog is the best way to silence negative breed stereotypes.

### 2) Never Use Your Dog as a “Guard Dog”

If your home needs protection, then buy a home security system! Protection dogs require years of professional training by an experienced dog trainer in order to be done properly, and when done poorly it can confuse your dog and put the wrong people in jeopardy. If your dog were to “protect” you from what they thought was an intruder, this would put them at risk of being put to sleep by animal control. In addition this would add to the mountain of negative stereotypes that can lead to breed bans and restrictions. Don't put your dog in danger!

### 3) Teach Kids about Safety around Dogs

All kids should know how to interact with dogs, regardless of the breed. For more info, visit: <http://www.pbrc.net/poppysplace/Safety/DogSafteyMain.htm>

### 4) Educate Yourself and Others About Your New Canine Companion

It is always a good idea to research your dog's breed! Be sure to read about their history, breed temperament, common traits, breed misconceptions, and useful training tips. Talk to dog trainers and other dog owners who are experienced with the breed. The more you know, the more you can educate others so that they have the real facts too. Below are some great websites that can get you off to a good start.

#### **Pit Bulls:**

- [Badrap.org](http://Badrap.org)
- [Vetstreet.com/dogs/american-staffordshire-terrier-american-pit-bull-terrier](http://Vetstreet.com/dogs/american-staffordshire-terrier-american-pit-bull-terrier)
- [Vetstreet.com/dogs/staffordshire-bull-terrier](http://Vetstreet.com/dogs/staffordshire-bull-terrier)
- [Pbrc.net/breedinfo.html](http://Pbrc.net/breedinfo.html)

#### **Rottweilers:**

- [Vetstreet.com/dogs/rottweiler](http://Vetstreet.com/dogs/rottweiler)

#### **Doberman Pinschers:**

- [Vetstreet.com/dogs/doberman-pinscher](http://Vetstreet.com/dogs/doberman-pinscher)