

Iraheta, Alba

Subject: FW: Proposed pit bull spay/neuter law

From: marina baktis <pawboutique@yahoo.com>

Date: January 25, 2014 at 12:38:46 AM PST

To: "gmasuda@cityofpasadena.net" <gmasuda@cityofpasadena.net>

Cc: "bbogaard@cityofpasadena.net" <bbogaard@cityofpasadena.net>, "jacquerobinson@cityofpasadena.net" <jacquerobinson@cityofpasadena.net>, "mmcaustin@cityofpasadena.net" <mmcaustin@cityofpasadena.net>, "johnjkennedy@cityofpasadena.net" <johnjkennedy@cityofpasadena.net>, "vgordo@cityofpasadena.net" <vgordo@cityofpasadena.net>, "smadison@cityofpasadena.net" <smadison@cityofpasadena.net>, "ttornek@cityofpasadena.net" <ttornek@cityofpasadena.net>, "mbeck@cityofpasadena.net" <mbeck@cityofpasadena.net>, "jgutierrez@cityofpasadena.net" <jgutierrez@cityofpasadena.net>, "smermell@cityofpasadena.net" <smermell@cityofpasadena.net>, "mbagneris@cityofpasadena.net" <mbagneris@cityofpasadena.net>, "sfoster@cityofpasadena.net" <sfoster@cityofpasadena.net>, "ewalsh@cityofpasadena.net" <ewalsh@cityofpasadena.net>

Subject: Proposed pit bull spay/neuter law

Reply-To: marina baktis <pawboutique@yahoo.com>

Dear Mr. Masuda

On January 27, the City Council will hear the first reading of a proposed ordinance that would require all pit bulls and pit bull mixes in Pasadena be spayed or neutered. I vehemently oppose the proposed ordinance. If Pasadena is going to pass a spay/neuter law, it should be for all dogs. Discrimination should not be proposed or tolerated.

I own a boarding kennel (Pasadena Canine Cottage), a pet store (Paw Boutique) and am the founder of Mutts & Moms dog rescue. All are located in Pasadena. I have more experience with dogs (and pit bull type dogs) than anyone in the city. Pit Bulls are awesome dogs. Two bases for the proposed ordinance have been given.

One is that pit bulls are responsible for most fatal dog attacks. Even a minimal effort at research shows that this is a media-fueled myth. There is no credible data to support this contention, and in fact, there is some reliable data compiled by the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association covering dog attack deaths over a ten-year period which refutes the contention. Any large breed dog can injure or kill someone if not properly socialized and trained. In the past, German Shepherds, Rottweilers and Doberman Pinschers have been similarly demonized.

A second reason is that pit bulls make up a large percentage of the dogs impounded by Pasadena Humane and those dogs have a low adoption rate. The same could be said of Chihuahuas, which Pasadena, the City of Los Angeles and many other municipalities are airlifting to other cities where the demand for Chihuahuas is high and the supply low. So if large impound rates

combined with low adoption rates are an excuse for such an ordinance, why aren't Chihuahuas covered by the ordinance? The answer is simple discrimination, based on inaccurate information.

I'm also troubled by the comparison made between Pasadena and Riverside regarding this proposal. Why are we comparing ourselves to a place where people raise dogs to be mean to protect their meth labs? Why aren't we comparing ourselves to Los Angeles City or County? They both passed mandatory spay/neuter laws for all breeds.

If the City of Pasadena is serious about pet-overpopulation, the right thing to do is pass a spay/neuter law for all cats and dogs. The surgery should be free or very low cost to low-income families. Otherwise, dogs will be surrendered to the shelter when people find out what the cost is to have the surgery performed on their pets and euthanasia rates will go up, not down.

I would prefer to see Pasadena be a progressive city and be the example other cities look to. It would be nice to have other cities come to see what we did to become "no-kill". As the guardian of two Pit Bulls and the rescuer of many, many of these wonderful dogs over the years, I urge you to vote against the proposal as it stands today.

Sincerely,

Marina Baktis
President/founder
Mutts & Moms dog rescue
Owner, Paw Boutique
Owner, Pasadena Canine Cottage
Resident of District 4

Iraheta, Alba

Subject: FW: Pasadena Mandatory Spay Neuter Ordinance

From: Rod Chambers <rod2844@att.net>

Date: January 26, 2014 at 7:47:00 PM PST

To: <bbogaard@cityofpasadena.net>, <jacqueroobinson@cityofpasadena.net>, <mmcaustin@cityofpasadena.net>, <johnjkennedy@cityofpasadena.net>, <gmasuda@cityofpasadena.net>, <vgordo@cityofpasadena.net>, <smadison@cityofpasadena.net>, <ttornek@cityofpasadena.net>, <mbeck@cityofpasadena.net>, <jguitierrez@cityofpasadena.net>, <smermell@cityofpasadena.net>, <mbagneris@cityofpasadena.net>, <sfoster@cityofpasadena.net>, <ewalsh@cityofpasadena.net>

Subject: Pasadena Mandatory Spay Neuter Ordinance

Dear Mayor and Pasadena City Council Members,

I am always concerned when a city discusses implementing a Mandatory Spay/Neuter Ordinance of “pit bull” type dogs. It is an ordinance that discriminates against responsible dog owners.

As responsible owners of a rescued pit bull, she is spayed, up-to-date on all her shots and is licensed in the city we reside in which is not Pasadena. She lives with our two cats, and a foster cat from the rescue I volunteer with.

She has a fully contained backyard, has never gotten loose and is always on a leash out in public. She spends 99.9% of her time in the house, where she is a beloved member of the family.

My experience with the pit bull type dogs has been a past volunteer at a local animal shelter for 6 years, 8 hours a day, 6 days a week. My husband and I are currently dog walkers on Saturdays with Linda Blair World Heart Foundation. We are past dog walkers for Villalobos Rescue Center, one of the largest pit bull rescues in the country. Our experience with this breed of dog has always been a positive one. I only wish more people would volunteer at an animal shelter or rescue. Then they would have the opportunity to see what these breeds truly are all about and not how the media portrays them most all of the time.

“Safe communities are created and supported when dogs are treated as individuals and pet owners are empowered to be responsible. Breed neutral, non-discriminatory laws and a proactive community approach can make a substantial impact in public safety”. -Animal Farm Foundation-

BSL is an ineffective solution to animal control problems because it doesn't address the real cause of the issue; irresponsible owners. Responsible owners are already complying with the local animal control laws and are unfairly targeted by this law just because of the breed of dog they own. As a result, many well-behaved dogs become targets even though they aren't a problem in the community.

Meanwhile, irresponsible owners will continue to make problems for their communities regardless of whether or not they own a breed targeted by breed specific laws. A better use of tax-payers' money would be to have animal control concentrate their efforts on irresponsible dog owners and individual dogs whose behavior has demonstrated that they are a problem for the community.

Please join the growing number of municipalities who are rescinding, repealing or rejecting any kind of BSL laws.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Pam Chambers
2531 W. Plaza Serena Dr.
Rialto, CA 92377

Iraheta, Alba

From: cityclerk
Subject: FW: Addressing the canned email responses coming from Madison and Bogaard regarding Pit Bulls

From: Josh Liddy [mailto:claritysix@gmail.com]

Sent: Sunday, January 26, 2014 6:08 AM

To: Bogaard, Bill; Robinson, Jacque; McAustin, Margaret; Kennedy, John; Masuda, Gene; Gordo, Victor; Madison, Steve; Tornek, Terry; Beck, Michael; Gutierrez, Julie; Mermell, Steve; Bagneris, Michele; cityclerk; Foster, Siobhan; Walsh, Eric

Subject: Addressing the canned email responses coming from Madison and Bogaard regarding Pit Bulls

Hello Council and fellow Pasadena policy makers,

I just wanted to quickly address the evasive and misleading nature of the automated email responses going out from Councilman Steve Madison, and more recently, Mayor Bill Bogaard.

What's clear is that for over 15 months the rhetoric coming from Mr. Madison has been steeped in a desire to see Pit Bulls banned. Furthermore, every time this issue is talked about at a meeting these types of dogs are vaguely and unjustly vilified as a total group. Numerous other Council members, aside from Madison, have voiced their own desires to go down the path of breed-discriminatory legislation. This City Council, with the exception of Jacque Robinson (and John Kennedy, who was absent), gave the Mayor their official endorsement in regards to contacting state legislators with the intent of challenging the current state law that prohibits "breed bans." This was both talked about on October 7th and officially put into documentation shown by the Public Works Director in the form of a Power Point presentation on November 25th. For now you go forth with all that you can legally do, while criminalizing every dog all the same. I've personally publicized numerous video clips of Steve Madison repeatedly demonizing Pit Bulls and Pit Bull-mixes, at an almost obsessive rate.

So it is both humorous and maddening to see the deflective attempts made by Madison in his response to constituents and concerned citizens, dodging these truths in order to appear far less extreme and far more rational and caring. This couldn't be further from the truth.

First off, Steve Madison doesn't seem to "respect" anyone's views. The only view that he even remotely pays attention to on this issue is a view that directly agrees with his own.

Secondly, the city of Pasadena cannot be "committed to ensuring public safety" while at the same time ignoring the 3 reckless circumstances that are behind almost every dog-related human fatality ever recorded (loose dogs, chained/resident dogs, unsupervised children). They also cannot climb on top of the public safety mantle while at the same time ignoring the already existing leash law, anti-chaining law, and breed-neutral dangerous dog law.

Thirdly, when did this become about "overpopulation"? Wow. Because I have direct video evidence from meeting after meeting showing Steve Madison ramble on about how all Pit Bulls are inherently vicious and have been "bred for thousands of years to be killers." This is a massive bait and switch, and I want that on the record.

Fourth, never have you as a Council taken up the issue of why there is "mass euthanasia at local shelters," nor have you discussed "escalating costs for animal care and control." Not once. I'd love to see these issues discussed, and if they ever are, please alert me as I'd like to add to such a discussion.

Fifth, define "reasonable basis"? The "statistics" that Madison repeatedly cites are from quite literally the most unreliable dog-related website on the entire internet, Pit Bull hate group DogsBite.org.

Sixth, how dare Madison cite shelter killing and claim that Pit Bulls are “unwanted,” AS HE AND THIS COUNCIL DEMONIZE THEM OPENLY AND IGNORANTLY, AND PERPETUATE SUCH BLATANT AND EGREGIOUS MISINFORMATION, which, by the way, directly leads to why many people do not consider them in the first place. How dare you!! Madison knows absolutely nothing about “shelter killing,” nor does he know anything about the typical “sheltering” system, nor does he care how many Pit Bulls are currently being killed in such a system considering his ultimate desire is to see a ban enabled so that he can then have Pasadena customarily kill them all.

Seventh, Madison's doublespeak about Pit Bulls and their owners “remaining safe” and “maintaining a high quality of life” is a massive disingenuous example of a politician blatantly lying through his proverbial teeth.

I sincerely hope that the other 6 members of this City Council, plus the Mayor, do not follow this misguided and cruel man into further profiling, scapegoating, witch-hunting, and all other nasty ideas that have been fundamentally repudiated by any decent human being that has ever walked the planet Earth.

Thank you,

Josh Liddy, Pasadena resident

Iraheta, Alba

From: cityclerk
Subject: FW: Breed Specific Law Opposition

From: Vicky L Kimball [mailto:vickyk@sbcglobal.net]

Sent: Sunday, January 26, 2014 1:43 PM

To: Bogaard, Bill; Robinson, Jacque; McAustin, Margaret; Kennedy, John; Masuda, Gene; Gordo, Victor; Madison, Steve; Tornek, Terry; Beck, Michael; Gutierrez, Julie; Mermell, Steve; Bagneris, Michele; cityclerk; Foster, Siobhan; Walsh, Eric

Subject: Fw: Breed Specific Law Opposition

One additional statement I wanted to make is, in general, there is just something fundamentally wrong when we as a progressive society try to make and pass laws that are guided by genetic make up and physical appearance. It's simply ill guided and is an act of malfeasance.

Respectfully Submitted,
Vicky Padilla, RN and
proud guardian of a Pitbull

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Vicky L Kimball <vickyk@sbcglobal.net>

To: "bbogaard@cityofpasadena.net" <bbogaard@cityofpasadena.net>; "jacquerobinson@cityofpasadena.net" <jacquerobinson@cityofpasadena.net>; "mmcaustin@cityofpasadena.net" <mmcaustin@cityofpasadena.net>; "johnjkennedy@cityofpasadena.net" <johnjkennedy@cityofpasadena.net>; "gmasuda@cityofpasadena.net" <gmasuda@cityofpasadena.net>; "vgordo@cityofpasadena.net" <vgordo@cityofpasadena.net>; "smadison@cityofpasadena.net" <smadison@cityofpasadena.net>; "ttornek@cityofpasadena.net" <ttornek@cityofpasadena.net>; "mbeck@cityofpasadena.net" <mbeck@cityofpasadena.net>; "jgutierrez@cityofpasadena.net" <jgutierrez@cityofpasadena.net>; "smermell@cityofpasadena.net" <smermell@cityofpasadena.net>; "mbagneris@cityofpasadena.net" <mbagneris@cityofpasadena.net>; "cityclerk@cityofpasadena.net" <cityclerk@cityofpasadena.net>; "sfoster@cityofpasadena.net" <sfoster@cityofpasadena.net>; "ewalsh@cityofpasadena.net" <ewalsh@cityofpasadena.net>

Sent: Sunday, January 26, 2014 11:59 AM

Subject: Breed Specific Law Opposition

Dear Members of the Pasadena City Council & Mayor of Pasadena,

I am writing to express both my concern and opposition to the pending Breed Specific Law Legislation that the City of Pasadena is considering.

As a citizen residing within the City of Los Angeles, I am concerned that the passing of any BSL is not only a step backwards with regards to discrimination based on genetics and physical appearance, it is also a step toward a very slippery slope of various bureaucracies dictating the rights of the citizens based on biases, inaccurate data, insubstantial so called "facts", hearsay and isolated events that are sensationalized by the media.

As a nurse of going on 29 years, I can testify that in order to address a physiological problem or an operational problem the most effective way is to do so based on Scientific Based Research not hearsay and popular opinion. I am certain that many of my peers have provided you accurate statistical data to support why passing BSL is not addressing the "real" underlying issues related to dog bites, fatalities related to dog attacks and overall animal overpopulation.

Simply said, this is a "Human" problem not a specific "Breed" problem. As with any social problem, education and bringing awareness to the public is what will make effective change. Let's face it, the laws we have in place are not being enforced such as dog chaining etc..

The passing of BSL has failed in other cities and states because it is flawed. We should learn from those failures and shift our focus to addressing the real problem at hand, that being the "Human" component through education and use/enforcement of the dog laws that already exist. It all comes down to owner responsibility and common sense which requires education, education and more education.

Thank you for reading another point of view,

Vicky Padilla, RN
and proud owner of a Pitbull

Iraheta, Alba

From: cityclerk
Subject: FW: Equality, diversity and compassion towards all.

Hello,

I wanted to start off by congratulating you and the city of Pasadena on being ranked the second "Gayest City in America" for 2014 by The Advocate magazine a few weeks back. This is a great honor as it shows you as city believe strongly in equality, diversity and compassion towards all. We all know how it feels to be bullied because we are different, but together we shall overcome discrimination, hate and stereotypes.

However, I feel these strives for equality are diminished by legislation that singles out a dog based specifically on his/her breed and/or appearance as this is nothing more than bigotry and the canine equivalent of racial profiling.

You are stereotyping a particular breed and creating a false sense of fear and paranoia. Pit bulls and pit bull looking dogs are not scary and aggressive, it's a negative stereotype given by the few mean people who are abusing these poor dogs to make a buck or because they just don't care about another's life. We need to look at the positives, which also are the majority of the cases. Most of the pit bull population is living in a home as a loving family member. Personally I would not bring any person or animal into my home that I would not feel safe with. But I do bring pit bull fosters into my house to live with my cat JackJack, roommate and myself. JackJack is my child and I would not do anything to put him in harms way. He has never had an altercation with one of his Angel City Pit Bull fosters siblings, but my friends little yippy dog on the other hand, well that's another story. And I feel his pain as personally I am way more afraid of my boss' tiny little dogs biting me, which they do on a regular bases, than a pit bull. But lets stick to specifically talking about pit bulls.

I am so proud of our pit bull fosters, Erin (Lilo), Megan (Vanilla Infinity Love), Ollie (Qwerx), Cupcake (Zoey), Petey, Biscuit, Gabby, Teddy, and Elvis as I couldn't have asked for better behavior from any of them while they stayed with us. They had nothing but love for my family and I.

I am excited for the steps Pasadena is taking regarding spaying and neutering of ALL dogs and cats. As a volunteer at the No Kill Los Angeles animal shelter and Best Friends Shelter I know all too well about how many animals are looking for forever home.

But specially singling out one particular breed because of misconceptions and hate is not going to solve anything. Enforce the laws that are all ready in affect, that go to the heart of dog bites: such as leash laws, chaining dogs up and enforcing of punishment for abusive and/or irresponsible owners.

Thank you for your time,

Sarah Audet

Iraheta, Alba

From: cityclerk
Subject: FW: See ya at six.

From: Woody McShepherd [mailto:crgslstings@gmail.com]

Sent: Monday, January 27, 2014 2:48 AM

To: Bogaard, Bill; Robinson, Jacque; McAustin, Margaret; Kennedy, John; Masuda, Gene; Gordo, Victor; Madison, Steve; Tornek, Terry; Beck, Michael; Gutierrez, Julie; Mermell, Steve; Bagneris, Michele; cityclerk; Foster, Siobhan; Walsh, Eric

Subject: See ya at six.

No BS Language.



Woody...n

Iraheta, Alba

From: robin.a.jeffries@gmail.com on behalf of Robin Jeffries <robin.jeffries@usc.edu>
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2014 6:49 AM
To: Bogaard, Bill; Robinson, Jacque; McAustin, Margaret; Kennedy, John; Masuda, Gene; Gordo, Victor; Madison, Steve; Tornek, Terry; Beck, Michael; Gutierrez, Julie; Mermell, Steve; Bagneris, Michele; cityclerk; Foster, Siobhan; Walsh, Eric
Subject: Statement of opposition to the breed specific spay/neuter law
Attachments: Preliminary Analysis of the Effect of MSN in LA.pdf

Good morning Pasadena City Council,

I will be in attendance tonight to formally state my opposition to the addition of Chapter 6.09 to Title 6 of the Pasadena Municipal code.

I am public health biostatistician and strongly recommend that the council reconsider imposing regulation which cannot be fiscally neutral and instead approach the situation of overcrowded shelters with a breed-neutral education approach.

To support my opposition a colleague and I have collected shelter intakes, adoptions and euthanasia counts from sources such as Los Angeles animal services for the past 14 years.

In a very short report that is attached to this email, I show that a mandatory spay/neuter program creates stagnation in the overall numbers of animals coming into the system, adoptions, and euthanasia rates.

Most importantly this report shows that educational outreach programs such as NKLA has significant positive effects on lower the burden on the shelters by decreasing euthanasia rates and increasing adoptions.

These programs are significantly more effective for dogs identified as pitbulls compared to other breeds. The rate of adoption for pitbulls doubled from 30% to 66% under educational programs such as NKLA.

If you truly consider dogs identified (correctly or incorrectly) as pit bull type dogs to be inherently a problem and not the fault of the owner than I urge you to consider educational and outreach programs, ones that include low-cost spay/neuter. It has a much more positive impact on these dogs than just an unenforceable mandatory spay and neuter law.

Thank you for your time,
-Robin Jeffries

--
Robin Jeffries, MS DrPH
Database Administrator
Adolescent and School Health Unit

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Division of HIV and STD Programs
2615 S. Grand Avenue, Room 460
Los Angeles, CA 90007
Cell: 213-259-3282

An Preliminary Examination of the Effect of Mandatory Spay/Neuter Legislation in Los Angeles, CA from 2001 to 2014: Educate not Mandate

Robin Jeffries, DrPH¹ and Megan Uebelacker, MA²

¹UCLA School of Public Health

²University of New Orleans

Created on January 26, 2014

1 Background

Currently the Pasadena City Council is proposing to enact a mandatory spay/neuter law for pit bull and pit bull cross breeds only. The ordinance claims that a high percent of pit bull type dogs being euthanized, and a low percent adopted, implies that these dogs are not desired pets by Pasadena residents.

This study was conducted in effort to deter the Council from creating new breed-specific laws and to instead consider educational programs that will result in a lower cost to the city by reducing the time dogs spend in the shelters, increasing the adoption rates, and decreasing the euthanasia rates. Across the country, mandatory spay/neuter (MSN) laws have been shown to not work as intended (cite). Los Angeles has been scrutinized after enacting its MSN in 2008. In 2012 the city decided to adopt an education outreach program by Best Friends Animal Society called “No Kill Los Angeles” (NLKA).

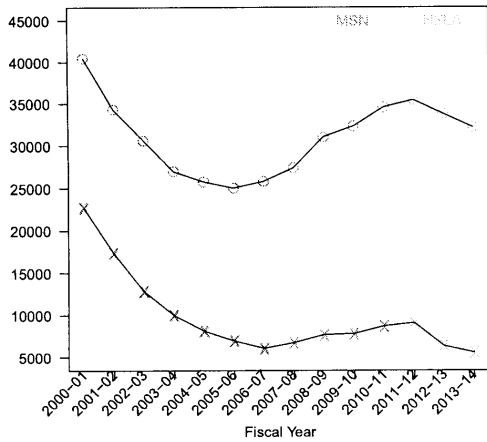
This study uses publicly available data on intake, adoption, and euthanasia rates for all dogs in Los Angeles from 2000 to 2013. Data for LA Animal Services’ 2014 fiscal year is only available through December 2013. Therefore, the FY2014 numbers are a projection based on performance during the first six months of the fiscal year. Statistical analysis indicates that mandatory spay/neuter programs have no effect on the intake, adoption, or euthanasia rates for any breed of dog, but that educational programs such as NKLA has positive effects for all dogs, more so with pit bull type dogs.

2 Results

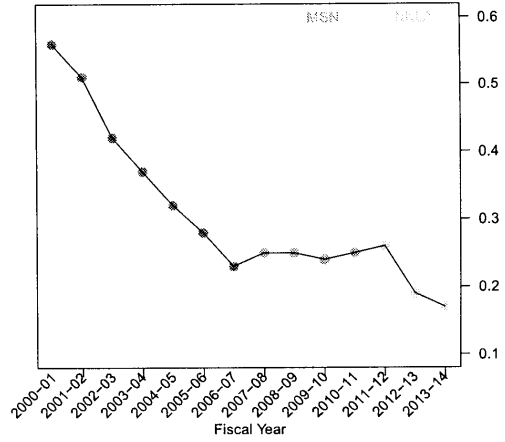
Time trend analysis was performed on the data displayed in Figure 1, which clearly shows that prior to 2008 there were significant decreasing trends both in animals coming into the shelters ($p=.005$) and those being euthanized ($p<.001$). Specifically the proportion of dogs being euthanized decreased from 56% in 2001 to 23% in 2007 ($p<.0001$).

Between July 2009 and March 2012 the number of dogs coming into the shelter and the number being euthanized remained constant. During that time, one in four dogs entering the system were killed, and this proportion remained constant even in the face of seasonal upticks in the intake numbers. From April 2012 to December 2013 the amount of dogs entering in the shelter system decreased about 300 dogs per year ($p=.04$) and 200 fewer dogs per year were being euthanized ($p=.007$), which has a net effect of 5% fewer dogs being killed each year ($p=.009$).

An analysis of monthly counts shown in Figure 2a found that after April 2012 the rates of euthanasia for all breeds significantly decreased from 24.4% to 19.5%, dogs were 12.7% less likely to be euthanized compared to prior to April 2012. Figure 2b shows that the rates of adoption of all breeds significantly increased from 54.1% to 60.7% and, dogs were 14.9% more likely to be adopted under NKLA than before.

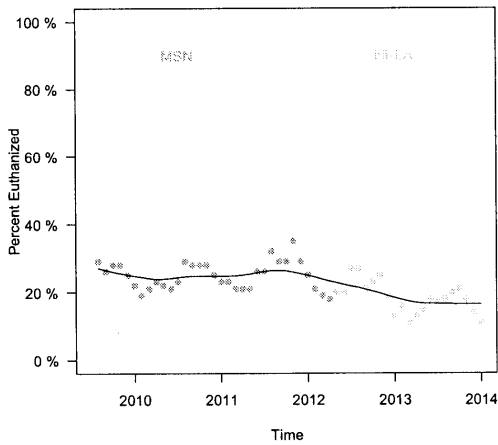


(a) Intake(o) and Euthanasia(x) counts

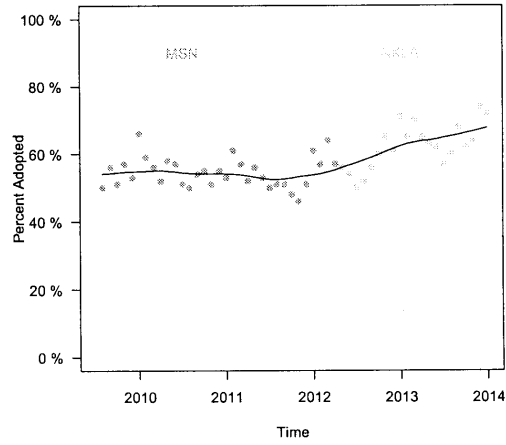


(b) Proportion of shelter dogs euthanized

Figure 1: Amount of Intake and Euthanasia rates in Los Angeles from 2001- 2014



(a) Euthanized



(b) Adopted

Figure 2: Proportion of dogs (a) euthanized and (b) adopted in Los Angeles from July 2009 - Dec 2013

3 Breed analysis

Despite the known problems with breed identification (cite), breed-specific MSN would require animal control and shelters to attempt to identify pit bull type dogs based on their appearance alone. Figure 3 shows that dogs identified as pit bulls are 406% more likely to be euthanized and 66.6% less likely to be adopted compared to other breeds ($p < .001$, each). Since July 2009 half (48.7%) of dogs identified as pit bulls were euthanized compared to less than one in five (16.1%) dogs who did not look like a pit bull.

The percent of pit bulls being euthanized significantly decreased from 53% to 13.4% under NKLA. A similar but much smaller decrease was seen for non-pit bulls; 17.6% to 13.4%. NKLA had significantly more impact on pit bulls than other breeds ($p = .01$). NKLA had a significant impact on pit bull adoptions, increasing the percent of pit bulls rehomed from 31.9% to 66%.

3.1 MSN and NKLA

Some proponents of MSN may say that the increase in both euthanasia and intake rates in 2008 are not solely the fault of MSN. They note that shelters across the country saw upticks in shelter intake due to the recession. The

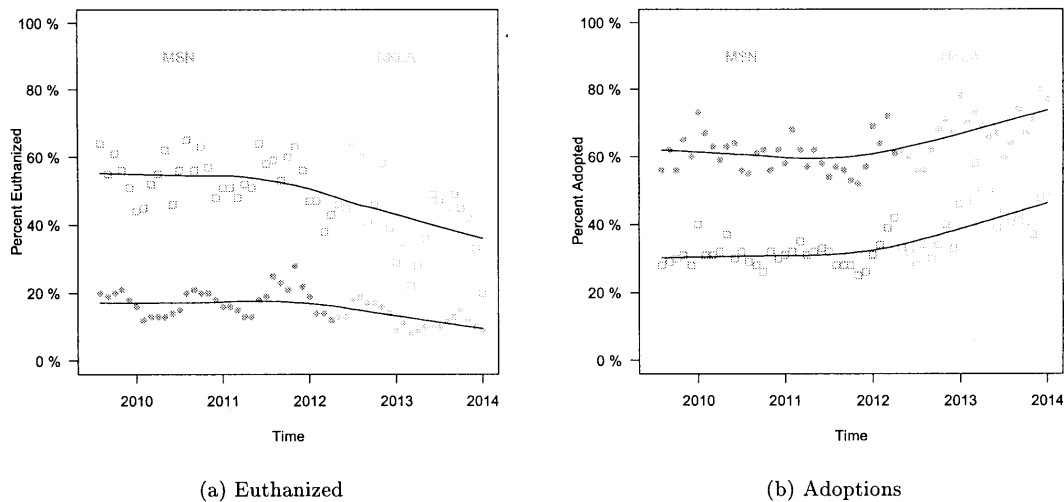


Figure 3: Monthly euthanasia and adoption rates for dogs identified (square) and not identified (dot) as pit bulls between Jul '09 and Dec '13

economy, however, did not experience a miraculously recovery in 2012 - yet outcomes for animals in the shelter system in L.A. improved dramatically that year. This can only be explained by the launch of No Kill Los Angeles (NKLA) in 2012, which promotes and provides effective spay/neuter programs. Key characteristics of NKLA's approach to spay/neuter programs include:

1. A focus on educating citizens on the benefits of spaying and neutering their pets (rather than using coercive legislation).
2. Offering spay/neuter services in neighborhoods and areas where the pet overpopulation crisis is the worst.
3. Providing affordable or free spay/neuter services.

4 Conclusion

This preliminary report analyzed the rates of shelter intakes, adoptions, and euthanasia in Los Angeles from 2000 to 2014. We found that the mandatory spay/neuter program had no significant impact on the amount of dogs entering or exiting the shelter system. We also found that dogs identified as pit bull type dogs, regardless of their actually DNA breed or temperament, were disproportionately euthanized compared to dogs not identified as pit bulls. Incorporating additional tactics primarily consisting of outreach, education and subsidies for spay/neuter programs had positive impacts on the shelters, namely decreasing intake and euthanasia rates and increasing the adoption rates.

It is the recommendation of the authors that a breed-specific mandatory spay/neuter program not be implemented in Pasadena. The Council should instead consider reaching out to educational programs such as NKLA to advise the City of Pasadena on how it can implement such an impactful program in it's own town. If the Council still considers pit bull type dogs to be a problem, they are encouraged to reach out to non-profit organizations that rescue, rehome, and train pit bull type dogs specifically.

5 References

1. 2009 to 2014 data obtained from LA Animal Services <http://www.laanimalservices.com/about-us-2/statistics/>
2. 2008 data obtained from ShelterTrak http://www.sheltertrak.com/stat_laas006.php
3. 2001 to 2008 data obtained from KC Dog Blog <http://btoellner.typepad.com/kcdogblog/2011/01/los-angeles-msn-year-3-when-can-we-expect-it-to-start-working.html>

Iraheta, Alba

From: cityclerk
Subject: FW: We are opposed to Dog Breed Discrimination Legislation in Pasadena
Attachments: sevengage.jpg

From: RobMTSD@aol.com [mailto:RobMTSD@aol.com]

Sent: Monday, January 27, 2014 9:42 AM

To: Bogaard, Bill; Robinson, Jacque; McAustin, Margaret; Kennedy, John; Masuda, Gene; Gordo, Victor; Madison, Steve; Tornek, Terry; Beck, Michael; Gutierrez, Julie; Mermell, Steve; Bagneris, Michele; cityclerk; Foster, Siobhan; Walsh, Eric; khuyck@rcbos.org; district1@rcbos.org; district2@rcbos.org; district3@rcbos.org; district4@rcbos.org

Subject: We are opposed to Dog Breed Discrimination Legislation in Pasadena

Dear All:

I am unable to attend your meeting today, so I am writing this to share my family's thoughts on your proposed Dog Breed Discrimination ordinance. We thank you for taking to the time read.

Our family includes two Staffordshire Bull Terriers. I've attached a photo of our girl Seven sitting with our boy Gage. They are the third and fourth of the SBT breed to be part of our family. Staffordshire Bull Terriers have been a part of our family for over 25 years.

The Staffordshire Bull Terrier is a distinct dog breed in the Terrier Group recognized by the AKC since 1975. This breed should not be confused with the American Staffordshire Terrier, which is a somewhat larger dog and also a distinct dog breed in the Terrier Group recognized by the AKC since 1936. Those two distinct dog breeds should not be confused with the American Pit Bull Terrier, which is a distinct dog breed not recognized by the AKC, but recognized by the UKC since 1898. I think these three distinct dog breeds should not be confused with what might be the larger population of Bull and/or Terrier mixes that many people like to call "Pit Bulls" or "Pits". Simply put, our dogs are not "Pit Bulls", even if some might pass a law suggesting otherwise. Frankly, over time I've come to view the labels "Pit Bull" and/or "Pit" as being similar to the "N" word. Those who would hate and discriminate use those labels in a manner consistent with the "N" word that ends in "er". Those who consider these dogs as family might use those labels in a manner consistent with the "N" word that ends with "ga". Personally, I'd be pleased if these types of labels were to someday vanish from our vocabulary.

My wife and dogs are daily regulars at a dog park local to our home. They meet with other regulars to see the dogs get good exercise and socialization. There are a number of semi-regulars who show up at the park hoping to find my wife and dogs there, knowing that their dogs will then have good playmates for exercise and socialization. One of the main reasons why my wife frequents the dog park is that she does not feel safe walking our dogs in our neighborhood. We live in a nice neighborhood, Tuscany Hills in Lake Elsinore. However, it is not uncommon for dogs to be loose and unattended in the neighborhood. My family has been attacked and injured by a dog while walking very near our home. The combination of irresponsible pet owners and lack of enforcement of existing leash and license laws creates an atmosphere where the responsible dog owner can't enjoy a walk in their own neighborhood.

Our current home is located in Riverside County. When we purchased this home in 2003 it was our intention for this home to be our primary residence when I should choose to retire. We are taxpayers and consumers who's income is roughly four times the median income in Riverside County. We have always believed strongly in supporting local community with our tax dollars and with our purchasing power. We think it a good thing to support local businesses and to have our Sales Tax dollars go to local community.

Sadly, on October 8, 2013 Riverside County passed an ordinance that discriminates against dogs and dog owners based on little more than misguided beliefs and the physical appearance of the dogs. As it goes, our dogs basically fit that appearance profile and our specific breed was thrown under the "Pit Bull" label. Worse still, in the passing of this ordinance, many comments were made by County Supervisors and Animal Services employees that served to demonize all dogs who fit that appearance profile and would be called "Pit Bulls" based on that physical appearance.

Needless to say, we are not well pleased by these events and what this has earned for Riverside County is a major shift in our approach to community. We now actively avoid spending on anything subject to Sales Tax within Riverside County. This to the dismay of several businesses we used to frequent and support. Further, we are no longer happy to have our Property Tax dollars go to a County so poorly lead, or our pet license fees to go to an incompetently

managed Animal Services Department. We are now actively planning our move to the higher ground of a neighboring State that has recently passed legislation banning dog breed discrimination laws. Now, if you are a person who believes that anyone who would own this type of dog is some sort of sociopath, then you are happy to see us leave. But if you are our neighbors, our dog park friends, if you sit on the Board of our Homeowners Association, if you are a manager or owner of a business we would frequent, then you might wish that Riverside County had more thoughtful leadership.

I believe it very easy to see that an ordinance that discriminates based on misguided beliefs and a poor understanding of real facts, that uses enforcement based on little more than a physical appearance profile, will do nothing to educate dog owners or potential dog owners. It will not contribute to the better enforcement of laws that currently exist but are poorly enforced, if ever enforced at all. Such an ordinance will not cause the irresponsible pet owner or parent to suddenly become responsible. It will not cause the animal abuser to stop the abuse and it will not stop the criminal from criminal activity. But such an ordinance might strain resources, foster ignorance and validate misguided fear, hatred and discrimination. It will discriminate against dogs who have a certain physical appearance, 99.99999+% of which have never done harm, some of which may even have done things that are very good...and it will discriminate against their families.

I believe it very easy to know that nothing truly good can come from legislated discrimination and that passing such legislation will not only place this Pasadena City Council on the wrong side of history, but will also diminish your community.

I urge each member of this Pasadena City Council to demonstrate themselves as wise, thoughtful and capable leaders by rejecting this Breed Discrimination ordinance.

Respectfully,

Robert James Allen
67 Villa Valtelena
Lake Elsinore, CA 92532
626-831-1998



Iraheta, Alba

From: Kim Arnold <karnold81647@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2014 2:45 PM
To: Madison, Steve; austin@cityofpasadena.net; Kennedy, John; Masuda, Gene; Gordo, Victor; Madison, Steve; Tornek, Terry; Beck, Michael; Gutierrez, Julie; Mermell, Steve; Bagneris, Michele; cityclerk; Foster, Siobhan; Walsh, Eric; Bogaard, Bill; Robinson, Jacque
Subject: Breed Specific Legislation

Mr. Madison and Others,

I lived in the Pasadena for almost 20 years in the not so distance past. The news that you are moving to enact Breed Specific Legislation (BSL) is quite unsettling to me, as I am sure it is to those in the city of Pasadena. There is much evidence that this does not work and before taking a backward stance and enforcing laws that will not work, please do your homework and try to be proactive in this.

Any animal, be it a mouse to a horse can and will bite. Dogs are no different. Be it a Chihuahua or a Doberman, they can do damage if they are in fearful situations. Therefore, would it not be advantageous to eliminate unsavory people from animal ownership, instead of harming those individuals that care for and treat their animals humanely.

If legislation was to be brought forward, then look at limitations on who can own animals, strict and enforced licensing, strict reporting from veterinarians and breeders and the like. These animals should not be made to suffer more than they do now. You need to get to the people who are causing these intolerable situations.

Pasadena has always held a fond memory for me. Please do not take away its progressiveness with such backward thinking. Support responsible pet ownership, and deny it to those that are not.

Sincerely,

Kim Arnold
New Castle, Colorado

Stewart, Jana

From: marina baktis <pawboutique@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 25, 2014 12:39 AM
To: Masuda, Gene
Cc: Bogaard, Bill; Robinson, Jacque; McAustin, Margaret; Kennedy, John; Gordo, Victor; Madison, Steve; Tornek, Terry; Beck, Michael; Gutierrez, Julie; Mermell, Steve; Bagneris, Michele; Foster, Siobhan; Walsh, Eric
Subject: Proposed pit bull spay/neuter law

Dear Mr. Masuda

On January 27, the City Council will hear the first reading of a proposed ordinance that would require all pit bulls and pit bull mixes in Pasadena be spayed or neutered. I vehemently oppose the proposed ordinance. If Pasadena is going to pass a spay/neuter law, it should be for all dogs. Discrimination should not be proposed or tolerated.

I own a boarding kennel (Pasadena Canine Cottage), a pet store (Paw Boutique) and am the founder of Mutts & Moms dog rescue. All are located in Pasadena. I have more experience with dogs (and pit bull type dogs) than anyone in the city. Pit Bulls are awesome dogs. Two bases for the proposed ordinance have been given.

One is that pit bulls are responsible for most fatal dog attacks. Even a minimal effort at research shows that this is a media-fueled myth. There is no credible data to support this contention, and in fact, there is some reliable data compiled by the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association covering dog attack deaths over a ten-year period which refutes the contention. Any large breed dog can injure or kill someone if not properly socialized and trained. In the past, German Shepherds, Rottweilers and Doberman Pinschers have been similarly demonized.

A second reason is that pit bulls make up a large percentage of the dogs impounded by Pasadena Humane and those dogs have a low adoption rate. The same could be said of Chihuahuas, which Pasadena, the City of Los Angeles and many other municipalities are airlifting to other cities where the demand for Chihuahuas is high and the supply low. So if large impound rates combined with low adoption rates are an excuse for such an ordinance, why aren't Chihuahuas covered by the ordinance? The answer is simple discrimination, based on inaccurate information.

I'm also troubled by the comparison made between Pasadena and Riverside regarding this proposal. Why are we comparing ourselves to a place where people raise dogs to be mean to protect their meth labs? Why aren't we comparing ourselves to Los Angeles City or County? They both passed mandatory spay/neuter laws for all breeds.

If the City of Pasadena is serious about pet-overpopulation, the right thing to do is pass a spay/neuter law for all cats and dogs. The surgery should be free or very low cost to low-

income families. Otherwise, dogs will be surrendered to the shelter when people find out what the cost is to have the surgery performed on their pets and euthanasia rates will go up, not down.

I would prefer to see Pasadena be a progressive city and be the example other cities look to. It would be nice to have other cities come to see what we did to become "no-kill". As the guardian of two Pit Bulls and the rescuer of many, many of these wonderful dogs over the years, I urge you to vote against the proposal as it stands today.

Sincerely,

Marina Baktis
President/founder
Mutts & Moms dog rescue
Owner, Paw Boutique
Owner, Pasadena Canine Cottage
Resident of District 4

Stewart, Jana

From: The Huffington Post <no-reply@huffingtonpost.com> on behalf of pawboutique@yahoo.com
Sent: Sunday, January 26, 2014 11:48 AM
To: Bogaard, Bill
Subject: Marina Baktis has shared a Huffington Post article with you

Article: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/01/25/nuns-adopt-elderly-pit-bull_n_4661476.html

Sent by [Marina Baktis](#)

Iraheta, Alba

From: Karla Baer Cohen <claddagh3@earthlink.net>
Sent: Sunday, January 26, 2014 9:51 PM
To: Bogaard, Bill
Cc: district1; Morales, Margo; West, Jana; Sullivan, Noreen; De La Cuba, Vannia; Madison, Steve; Tornek, Terry
Subject: vote no on breed specific laws
Importance: High

Better Alternatives

Strict enforcement of animal control laws (such as leash laws) and guidelines that clearly define dangerous behavior in all breeds are more effective in protecting communities from dangerous animals. Dangerous dog guidelines should establish a fair process by which a dog is deemed “dangerous” or “vicious” based on *stated, measurable actions*, not merely based on breed. These laws should also impose appropriate penalties on irresponsible

irresponsible owners and establish a well defined method for dealing with dogs proven to be dangerous.

Increased public education efforts also prove effective, as they address the root issue of irresponsible dog ownership.

Salt Lake County, Utah, implemented a program in 2009 to train “pit bull” breeds in an attempt to lower the numbers being euthanized in local shelters. This program utilizes the American Kennel Club’s Canine Good Citizen® program to teach owners on how to properly train and socialize their dogs.

(www.animalservices.slco.org)

If a community truly wants to fix the problem of dangerous dogs, then it needs to abandon the idea of breed specific legislation. Time and time again, communities that have enacted BSL get unenforceable and costly laws, but no solution to the problem. Addressing the issue of irresponsible ownership is a much more effective method of animal control. The AKC Government Relations Department is available to help communities develop dangerous dog policies that properly protect citizens and responsible dog owners.