

## Iraheta, Alba

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**From:** Sarah Sprouse <srs@akc.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 27, 2014 1:09 PM  
**To:** Bogaard, Bill; district1; Morales, Margo; Cruz, Christian (Field Rep); West, Jana; Sullivan, Noreen; De La Cuba, Vannia; Madison, Steve; Tornek, Terry  
**Subject:** AKC Letter in Opposition to Breed-Specific Mandatory Spay/Neuter Ordinance  
**Attachments:** City of Pasadena BSL\_MSN 0113.pdf

Attached please find the American Kennel Club's letter explaining our opposition to the breed-specific mandatory spay/neuter ordinance on tonight's agenda. We appreciate you taking the time to review this prior to tonight's meeting. We apologize for the late arrival of our letter; we were only made aware of the proposal late Friday. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can provide further assistance.

Sarah Sprouse  
Legislative Analyst



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AMERICAN  
KENNEL CLUB®

The Honorable Bill Bogaard  
Mayor, City of Pasadena  
Pasadena City Hall  
100 North Garfield Avenue  
Pasadena, CA 91101

January 27, 2013

**Re: AKC Opposes Breed-Specific Mandatory Spay/Neuter Ordinance**

Dear Mr. Mayor and Members of the Pasadena City Council;

Concerned dog owners in Pasadena have recently contacted the American Kennel Club regarding an ordinance that would require the sterilization of all “pit bulls.” The AKC and its affiliated clubs oppose legislation that is breed-specific, and we respectfully urge the county to pursue an ordinance that judges a dog based on its deeds, not its breed.

Mandatory spay/neuter is an ineffective solution to animal control problems because it fails to address the heart of the issue—irresponsible ownership. These laws are extremely difficult to enforce and can be evaded by irresponsible animal owners who don’t license their pets. This ordinance would unfairly punish responsible owners who already comply with local animal control laws, while irresponsible owners continue to make problems for the community and local shelters.

Strong enforcement of leash laws and establishment of enhanced and graduated penalties will effectively target irresponsible owners of all breeds without unduly burdening responsible owners and breeders. Communities must establish a well-defined procedure for dealing with dogs that repeatedly violate the animal control ordinance or those who are proven to be dangerous. In order to be effective, these ordinances should not single out specific breeds or phenotypic classes of dogs. Deeds, not breeds, should be addressed.

Breed-specific legislation is ineffective and unenforceable. It is opposed by the [American Kennel Club](#), the [American Veterinary Medical Association](#), [National Animal Control Association](#), the [American Bar Association](#), the [ASPCA](#), the [National Animal Interest Alliance](#), and a host of other respected national animal organizations. The position statements of these groups are linked to here if you wish to do further research into their reasoning.

Although we appreciate the exemption for “show dogs,” we do not believe it is sufficient. Under this law puppies would have to be sterilized at four months of age, far too young for competition. Further, there are a variety of reasons that a dog might not be shown in a given year, such as if the dog had recently whelped a litter or if a family member took ill and was unable to travel. Responsible breeders also have animals in their breeding program who may not compete but may provide genetic diversity or desirable traits.

We believe communities must establish a well-defined procedure for dealing with dogs proven to be dangerous. **In order to be effective, such legislation should not single out specific breeds or phenotypic classes of dogs. Deeds, not breeds, should be addressed.**

The AKC and your constituent dog owners would be pleased to serve as a resource for any questions or concerns you may have. We look forward to working with you as this issue progresses, and we respectfully urge you not to adopt a breed-specific mandatory spay/neuter ordinance. You may contact me or the AKC Government Relations team at 919-816-3720.

Sincerely,

Sarah Sprouse  
Legislative Analyst

January 24, 2014

Dear City of Pasadena Elected Officials and Staff,

I am a resident of the City of Glendale and I am concerned with the City of Pasadena's efforts to enact breed specific/discriminatory legislation (BSL/BDL). I understand that on January 27, 2014, the City of Pasadena City Council will hear the first reading of an ordinance for a breed specific mandatory spay/neuter (MSN) law for pit bulls and pit bull cross breeds. In addition to this ordinance, on November 25, 2013 the City Council also approved a motion to authorize the Mayor of Pasadena to send letters to California State Legislators on behalf of the City of Pasadena advocating for the repeal of the preemption on dog breed ban ordinances that have been in place since 2005.

Just as you do, I wish to ensure that Pasadena is a safe community. However, BSL/BDL is not an effective method of creating a safe community; in fact BSL/BDL has never been proven to reduce shelter intake numbers, euthanasia rates, or dog bites. I am opposed to all BSL/BDL, as well as breed specific and non-breed specific MSN as this type of legislation alienates residents, victimizes low-income families, and fails to ensure community safety. I urge you to avoid this costly and ineffective approach of regulating dogs on the basis of breed. Breed regulation promotes a false sense of security and animal cruelty, not community safety. It is good for neither people nor pets. The following are just a sample of the organizations and agencies which have published statements in favor of breed-neutral legislation for safe communities: American Bar Association (ABA), American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), and the National Animal Control Association (NACA, the national association of animal control professionals nationwide).

In addition to overwhelming evidence and information that demonstrates that BSL/BDL is ineffective in ensuring community safety, I am further concerned that Pasadena has not studied the true costs of BSL/BDL thoroughly. The Staff Report released with this ordinance notes that there is no fiscal impact to the City of Pasadena for the enforcement of this ordinance under the City's current contract with the Pasadena Humane Society and SPCA (PHS). However, I am not aware of a single municipality that has enacted some form of BSL/BDL without additional costs to the tax-payer. Using this tool from Best Friends Society (<http://www.guerrillaeconomics.biz/bestfriends>) the estimated cost to Pasadena for enforcement of this ordinance would be \$248,000 annually (see attached). In the interest of ensuring community safety and reduced shelter intake and euthanasia rates, those funds would be better spent on mobile spay/neuter services for families without transportation, community outreach and education, as well as shelter intervention services similar to those currently at the South LA Animal Shelter and North Central Animal Shelter to provide services for families so that they can keep their pets.

As a homeowner in Glendale, I am concerned that the PHS's obligation to enforce BSL/BDL in Pasadena will deteriorate their animal control and welfare services in Glendale, as well as, La Cañada-Flintridia, San Marino, Sierra Madre and Arcadia, and South Pasadena.

I am in support of Pasadena exploring and pursuing alternative humane and non-discriminatory measures to ensure public safety that focus on providing owner support and resources, rather than ineffective BSL/BDL measures. I am pleased to send you just some of the overwhelming evidence that breed BSL/BDL does not work. The attached links contain materials to further elaborate on these key points:

- Best Friends Animal Society: <http://bestfriends.org/Resources/No-Kill-Resources/Pit-bull-initiatives/Breed-Identification-Problems-and-Preventing-Breed-Discrimination/>
- Bad Rap: <http://www.badrap.org/breed-discrimination>

Pasadena is a beautiful and special community ripe with leading innovators and institutions. The proposed ordinance exemplifies none of Pasadena's most treasured qualities and it does not align with Pasadena's stated values of responsiveness, accountability, excellence, innovation, or diversity and inclusiveness. As more and more states and municipalities are repealing or rejecting BSL/BDL on the basis of its ineffectiveness, I question why Pasadena is choosing to follow less visionary municipalities with this proposed ordinance rather than the growing number of progressive communities who are on a different path and who embrace breed-neutral, behavior based animal control laws and humane, community-based approaches to solving their dog related challenges. In 2013, 8 states passed prohibitions against BSL/BDL or rejected an attempt to repeal the prohibitions against BSL/BDL, bringing the total to 14 states that have a prohibition against BSL/BDL. There were 12 municipalities who decided, based on the evidence, to repeal their BSL/BDL, and 10 that repealed due to a state law having been enacted, bringing total repeals to at least 20. There were at least 18 municipalities who had a proposal that was rejected.<sup>1</sup> In comparison, only 10 municipalities passed BSL/BDL in 2013.<sup>2</sup> Breed discriminatory laws are not the norm now, nor have they ever been. In 2014, BSL/BDL is still not the norm. On January 14, 2014, the municipality of Bonner Springs, KS repealed their 24-year old pit bull ban after an advisory committee of 12 members, including four city council members, a municipal judge, and two members of the police force, as well as other community leaders was formed to evaluate the effectiveness of the ban. Their memo to their City Council is well researched, thoughtful, and shows they were quickly able to identify truthful, factual sources versus bogus ones (attached).

Breed specific legislation will result in fiscal waste, regulatory confusion, and political opposition, without increasing the safety of residents in Pasadena. Communities are best served by enacting breed-neutral dangerous dog laws that will hold all dog owners equally accountable for their actions. If I can be of further assistance, I hope you will feel free to contact me at (323) 359-3175 or [zorca.stancevic@gmail.com](mailto:zorca.stancevic@gmail.com).

Thank you for reading this letter.

Respectfully,  
Zorica Stancevic  
Glendale, CA

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<sup>1</sup> This number is actually much higher than what is listed here. The reason for this is that there are quite a few places that had a proposal or recommendation that was breed discriminatory that has not been officially rejected, but rather "tabled indefinitely." Only places that officially rejected a proposal or were counted.

<sup>2</sup> <http://stopbsl.org/2014/01/06/2013-breed-discrimination-year-in-review/> Accessed January 24, 2014.



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## **Breed-Discriminatory Legislation in Pasadena California**

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### **Pets Impacted by Breed-Discriminatory Legislation in Pasadena California**

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Estimated number of dogs	30,372
Estimated number of pit-bull-terrier-type dogs	2,195

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### **Costs Associated with Breed-Discriminatory Legislation**

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Enforcement	\$125,757
Kenneling and veterinary care	\$39,731
Euthanizing and disposal	\$4,825
Litigation costs*	\$57,594
DNA testing	\$20,485
<b>Total estimated annual cost</b>	<b>\$248,392</b>

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**\*The government has burden of proof and must comply with due process protections for property (pet) owners**

*This analysis was produced by John Dunham and Associates for the Best Friends Animal Society. It is based on the best available information on dog ownership rates and the costs of animal control programs. For summary results and a detailed methodology [click here...](#) © 2012 Best Friends.*



# Making Communities Safer, for Both People and Pets



We all want safe and humane communities, which includes protecting citizens from dangerous dogs, regardless of breed. City officials should protect people and pets by passing and enforcing laws that emphasize public safety, personal responsibility, and individual accountability. When it comes to dangerous dogs, the focus should be on reckless or negligent owners, not the breed of the dog. The simple truth is that breed is not a factor in bites.

But reckless owners are a factor. Bad owners lead to bad dogs, and that puts everyone at risk. The best laws address the behavior of both dog owners and dogs, and put regulations in place to restrain and restrict any dangerous dog. All problem or nuisance dogs should be sterilized because studies have shown that the majority of bite cases come from unneutered male dogs.

Studies done in countries with breed-discriminatory laws, such as the United Kingdom, Spain and Germany, found that these laws didn't reduce the number of dog bites or improve public safety. Based on these studies, and concerns about property rights infringement, the American Bar Association, the National Animal Control Association, and the American Veterinary Medical Association don't support breed discrimination. Instead, they support laws that go after the real problem: the behavior of the individual dog and the behavior of the reckless or negligent owner.

Another problem with breed-discriminatory laws: They interfere with citizens' basic property rights. In America, every citizen who follows the safety rules as a responsible dog owner should be allowed to own whatever breed of dog he or she chooses. Sixteen states now prohibit breed discrimination, and one reason is that it violates property rights.

Scientific studies have proven that pit bull terriers are just as safe and gentle as any other dog. In fact, they have ranked better than golden retrievers or border collies on temperament tests, according to the American Temperament Test Society. Given a loving home and caring people, pit bull terriers can be man's best friend. There's a reason they used to be called "America's dog." Instead of punishing innocent dogs, let's hold owners accountable and responsible for animals who are actually dangerous.

.....

By working together, we can ensure that every loving pet receives a loving home. This humane goal is being achieved in many communities throughout Utah. Your community can achieve it, too, and Best Friends is there to help. For more information, contact Ledy VanKavage, senior legislative attorney, at [ledyv@bestfriends.org](mailto:ledyv@bestfriends.org), or Laura Handzel, legislative lawyer, at [laurah@bestfriends.org](mailto:laurah@bestfriends.org).

**bestfriends.org**



## **BREED DISCRIMINATION FAILS BECAUSE:**

- It violates basic property rights.
- It focuses on the wrong thing.
- It's arbitrary.
- It's expensive.
- It's ineffective.
- It's not practical.

**Jomsky, Mark**

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**Subject:** FW: Mandatory Pit Bull Spay/Neuter Ordinance and BSL legislation

**From:** Marnella Stout [mailto:snowback728@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Sunday, January 26, 2014 2:13 PM

**To:** De La Cuba, Vannia; Bogaard, Bill; district1; Morales, Margo; Madison, Steve; Cruz, Christian (Field Rep); West, Jana; Sullivan, Noreen; Tornek, Terry

**Subject:** Mandatory Pit Bull Spay/Neuter Ordinance and BSL legislation

Dear City of Pasadena Officials,

I have owned a home in Pasadena since 2007. Owning a home inspired me to enjoy the neighbourhood by adopting a dog, which I did, from the Pasadena Humane Society. In exploring my neighbourhood with my dog, Ruby, I discovered that the feral cat population in my area was out of control. I have trapped several and taken advantage of the free Trap Neuter Release program that Pasadena offers. I have had to call animal control at least half a dozen times due to wandering, abandoned dogs in the city. While I am grateful for these services, it is obvious to me that the city, like most cities, has not just an animal overpopulation problem, but also an ignorant-people problem.

Today, I volunteer for several animal rescue groups, we try to save as many shelter dogs from death as possible, and to educate people about the importance of spaying and neutering. Yet, there are people who don't spay/neuter. There are two men on my block who refuse to neuter their male dogs because "then they won't be men." This is completely ignorant and uneducated thinking.

How is a mandatory spay/neuter (MSN) law going to fix this? It's not. "Every single data-based study of mandatory spay/neuter laws has demonstrated that such laws do not increase spay-neuter compliance rates, nor do they reduce shelter intake, nor are they cost-effective, nor do they save lives. In fact, the opposite is true: in community after community that has passed a mandatory spay/neuter law, shelter killing and intake actually increase because in poor communities, families who cannot afford the money or time to have their pets surgically altered are forced to surrender their pets (or the pets are seized). These pets are quickly replaced in the communities with additional unaltered animals, creating an enhanced cycle of killing. These laws do not work, have never worked in any community, and will not work." See <http://fixaustin.blogspot.com/2011/01/why-we-join-national-consensus-against.html>

The ASPCA is against MSN, because it "is not aware of any credible evidence demonstrating a statistically significant enhancement in the reduction of shelter intake or euthanasia as a result of the implementation of a mandatory spay/neuter law. It can be extremely difficult for even a veterinary professional to visually determine if an animal, particularly a female, has been sterilized; it would be virtually impossible for an animal control officer to make those determinations in the field. In at least one community that enacted an MSN law, fewer pets were subsequently licensed, likely due to owners' reluctance to pay either the high fee for keeping an unaltered animal or the fee to have the pet altered (Office of Legislative Oversight, 1997). One of the main barriers to spaying and neutering of pets is accessibility of services, which is not addressed simply by making spaying and neutering mandatory. Cost is one of the primary barriers to spay/neuter surgery in many communities (Patronek et al., 1997; Ralston Purina, 2000; Frank, 2001)." See <http://www.aspc.org/about-us/policy-positions/mandatory-spay-neuter-laws.aspx>.

The AVMA does not support regulations or legislation mandating spay/neuter of privately owned, non-shelter dogs and cats. Although spaying and neutering helps control dog and cat populations,

mandatory approaches may contribute to pet owners avoiding licensing, rabies vaccination and veterinary care for their pets, and may have other unintended consequences. See <http://www.ziasavesdogs.org/news-special-events/advocacy/msn-mandatory-spay-neuter/>

With regards to targeting Pit Bulls specifically, Councilman Steve Madison would have you believe that Pit Bulls “have been bred for thousands of years to be a killer” and that they are a “much much more dangerous breed.” These are absolute lies. “In December 2010, the American Temperament Test Society showed the American pit bull terrier scored an overall temperament rating of 83.9%, compared to the 77% score of the general dog population. Pit bulls are actually bred to be affectionate towards people. They have been bred for hundreds of years for strength, agility, high pain tolerance and absence of aggression toward humans. Pit bulls are extremely intelligent dogs and take their cues from the humans who raise them. Only humans are capable of knowing the difference between “right and wrong,” and all dogs are bred, raised and trained to behave the way they do. See <http://www.examiner.com/article/pit-bulls-score-better-on-temperament-tests-than-the-general-dog-population>

In short, there are no bad dogs, only bad owners. Pit Bulls are the true victims of people’s cruelty and ignorance. Pits are often part of dogfighting rings, but do you know what it takes to ‘create’ a fighter dog? They are not born that way, and it can be done with any dog. Their training begins when they are puppies. It begins with being given only the most rudimentary of comforts, mainly kept chained up outside, and fed just enough to keep them from starving. They are kept in very close proximity to other dogs, enough to be in a state of constant aggravation. They are also given little to no human contact. The only praise they get is IF they harm another dog. Some won’t, and they are usually tortured and killed, maybe even fed to the other dogs. Or, these ‘weak’ dogs might be used as bait dogs, where their jaws and feet are bound, so they cannot fight back. Sometimes all their teeth are pulled out, and ears cut off. Does any of this sound naturally occurring? Do you see who the real perpetrator is? People. When dogfighting rings are busted by police, what happens to the dogs? The vast majority of them can be rehabilitated and rehomed. Why? Because a dog, any dog, has an endless capacity to love and forgive. It’s a remarkable and enviable trait.

At a recent City Council meeting, Councilman Steve Madison said, regarding attacks by Pits “We want to stop it before it happens here.” It was pointed out to him that the only dog-bite fatality that the PHSUS responded to was in Glendale, and it was not a Pit. Watch [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EufjQA\\_jkBo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EufjQA_jkBo)

From the Journal of American Veterinary Medical Association, “dog bite-related fatalities are so extremely rare that not even a state could ban enough dogs to insure that they had prevented even one. (Consider: in Denver, Colorado, after they banned “pit bull” dogs in 1989, they had another dog bite-related fatality in the Denver area, involving another type of dog.) Spain, Italy, Great Britain and the Netherlands have all reported that their breed specific regulations have not produced a reduction in dog bite incidents. The Toronto Humane Society surveyed health departments throughout the province of Ontario, and reported that the breed ban enacted in 2005 had not produced a reduction in dog bites. In Winnipeg, Manitoba, after the city banned one type of dog, dog bites actually rose, just involving other types of dogs. Reports from Denver, Colorado, Miami-Dade, Florida, Prince George’s County, Maryland, and Omaha, Nebraska all tell the same story. See [http://nationalcanineresearchcouncil.com/uploaded\\_files/tiny/mce/NNB%20now%20available%20in%20JAVMA%20dated.pdf](http://nationalcanineresearchcouncil.com/uploaded_files/tiny/mce/NNB%20now%20available%20in%20JAVMA%20dated.pdf)

The CDC has these recommendations regarding dog-bite prevention:



1. Owner and public education. Dog owners, through proper selection, socialization, training, care, and treatment of a dog, can reduce the likelihood of owning a dog that will eventually bite. Male and unspayed/unneutered dogs are more likely to bite than are female and spayed/neutered dogs. Educational and prevention efforts should be directed at parents and children. Veterinarians and pediatricians should address strategies for bite prevention, including the need for appropriate supervision of children. Other strategies include dissemination of information on preventing bites, school-based educational programs on bite prevention and canine behavior, and educational programs regarding responsible dog selection, ownership, and training.
2. Animal control at the community level. Animal-control programs should be supported, and laws for regulating dangerous or vicious dogs should be promulgated and enforced vigorously. For example, in this report, 30% of DBRFs resulted from groups of owned dogs that were free roaming off the owner's property. Some of these deaths might have been prevented through more stringent animal-control laws and enforcement. Although some breeds were disproportionately represented in the fatal attacks described in this report, the representation of breeds changes over time. **As a result, targeting a specific breed may be unproductive; a more effective approach may be to target chronically irresponsible dog owners.** See <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/00047723.htm>

In conclusion, the only breed-specific problem we have is with humans. Mandatory spay/neuter ordinances will not solve the problem, and will cost the city money. All dogs have who bitten people, not just Pit Bulls, are the victims of bad owners, and they are the ones at which efforts should be targeted. Education, low-cost programs, and access are key. At a time when we are becoming a more compassionate people, where movements like No Kill LA are gaining more and more steam, and this being one of the most progressive states in the country, implementation of MSN or BSL will be a giant, costly, misguided step backwards, not just for the City, but the State too.

Sincerely,

Marnella Stout  
741 Elmira Street  
Pasadena, CA 91104  
(310) 384-2123

**Stewart, Jana**

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**From:** Bill Stolbach <stolbachbill@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 27, 2014 1:23 PM  
**To:** Bogaard, Bill  
**Subject:** You know how people say, "If we can save just one life...."

Well, if we could ban pitbulls, we'd save DOZENS of lives, just here in Pasadena.

There are hundreds of breeds of dogs. Get one that doesn't maul little children to death!

We must spay and neuter pitbulls. It's long overdue.

## Iraheta, Alba

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**From:** cityclerk  
**Subject:** FW: NO BSL PLEASE

**From:** Joanne Ventresca [<mailto:joanne@pacifictitlearchives.com>]

**Sent:** Monday, January 27, 2014 12:33 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; 'More'

**Subject:** NO BSL PLEASE

Councilman Steve Madison, who has openly stated that he wants Pit Bulls banned from Pasadena and intends to look into challenging the state law that says you cannot achieve bans on breeds, simply has no idea what he is talking about. Pit bulls ARE NOT THE PROBLEM, NOR ARE ANY OTHER BREEDS. The people who are irresponsible owners are the problem.

Please educate yourselves – pit bulls are simply a breed of dog. They were called “nanny dogs” before gangs and the Michael Vicks of the world got their vile hands on them and used them for fighting. Go to [www.bestfriends.org](http://www.bestfriends.org) and see what happened to the Vick dogs – some have even become therapy dogs!!

The thought of banning an entire breed is repulsive. It sounds like Hitler is back.

Please do not do this.

Joanne Ventresca

**Iraheta, Alba**

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**Subject:** FW: Support mandatory spay/neuter of pit bulls, pit bull x-breeds

**From:** Holland VanDieren [mailto:[oh.holland@gmail.com](mailto:oh.holland@gmail.com)]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 27, 2014 2:00 PM  
**To:** Madison, Steve  
**Cc:** Suzuki, Takako  
**Subject:** Support mandatory spay/neuter of pit bulls, pit bull x-breeds

Councilmember Madison,

I live in your district, own a pit bull and am a Pasadena humane Society volunteer with many years of experience in the humane/rescue community. I support your proposal for mandatory spay/neuter of most pit bulls and pit bull crossbreed dogs in our city.

I think Pasadena Humane is one of the nation's premier sheltering agencies and I'm proud to have an association. I admire Steve McNall and his executive staff. However on this issue I part ways with their stance.

There is no denying that -- statistically as a breed -- pit bulls account for a distressing number of serious injuries and worse, both to people and other animals. A significant factor in this track record is that pits bulls are overbred, easy to come by, and are popular among people who would train and breed them to fight. This reputation plus the breed's tremendous overpopulation is why kennels in shelters everywhere are heavily occupied by pit bulls.

Mandatory sterilization of pit bulls would not only curb breeding, it would keep them out of the hands of people with the wrong motives -- and over time the pit bull reputation would rise. In good hands, pit bulls are as devoted, loving and playful as any of the "attractive" dog breeds.

Most pit bulls you find at Pasadena Humane are naturally good dogs -- or have the potential to be with a bit of direction -- and they would get a better reception by the public if there were not countless others being molded into fighting machines, being used to intimidate or make a statement.

As it's been said, pit bulls are a "trend breed" now ... so why not help that breed find good adopters by limiting their litters and, in turn, the opportunities to teach them bad behaviors?

I understand that breed specific legislation is unpopular, and it seems to me that is the prime objection being offered to this proposal. Like Pasadena Humane, I too would like a mandatory sterilization law to cover all breeds, but why not take up the current proposal as a big step in the right direction? Philosophical fine points are not going to help the pit bulls of Pasadena. Action is.

Sincerely, Holland VanDieren

955 Jane Place

91105

## Iraheta, Alba

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**From:** cityclerk  
**Subject:** FW: Response to Pasadena Spay and Neuter Ordinance Staff Report

**From:** Stephanie [<mailto:wolfheart93@yahoo.com>]

**Sent:** Monday, January 27, 2014 12:55 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:** Response to Pasadena Spay and Neuter Ordinance Staff Report

Dear Council members,

It has been said, “There are lies, there are damn lies, and then there’s statistics.”

But how else does one quantify things? We need to look at the whole picture—the picture behind the numbers.

In the original staff report, percentages for Intake, Euthanasia, and Adoption were listed for Pit Bulls, Chihuahuas, and All Other Dogs. In the report presented tonight, they’ve left out one of those three crucial numbers.

Certainly if we look at the fact that only 10% of the dogs adopted out were pit bulls, it seems low in comparison to the fact that 27% of animals euthanized were pit bulls. In fact, it looks pretty bad.

But let’s add the third number back in:

Pit bulls comprised only 10% of all dogs adopted out.

However, **only 15% of all the dogs coming into the shelter were pit bulls.**

If we look at those two numbers and nothing else, that’s seems reasonable, given that there isn’t a 100% live release rate.

Some members of the council believe that pit bulls are “unwanted” and that there is an “overpopulation” of them. But we don’t know how many of the pit bulls that were taken into the shelter were euthanized. We only know the percentage they make of the total amount of dogs—and, we have no idea how many dogs were taken in, adopted, or euthanized in total. And, since pit bull is difficult to define, how do we know these numbers are even accurate at all?

Numbers are meaningless without words. Have you asked why these numbers are what they are?

How many of the pit bulls were strays? How many were owner relinquishments because they had to move and couldn’t find dog-friendly housing let alone ones that would take a pit bull? How many were dogs who had gotten out of their yards but were returned to their owners?

And when we see the high euthanasia rate, ask why? Was it because stray dogs were fearful of humans and the rehabilitation they needed wasn’t available for them to become domesticated? Were they owner surrenders who had shut down and were so sad that no one wanted to adopt them? Had they been hit by cars and had injuries too extensive to repair?

And then ask the real, but scary, question: was it just a practical decision?

One kennel can hold one pit bull—maybe two if they're on the smaller side. One kennel can also hold 4 or 5 small poodle/Chihuahua/yorkie dogs who get along. So, if you're running out of space, and you don't want to kill a lot of dogs but need the most of amount kennels, who has to go? If you need four kennels, do you euthanize 20 small dogs who are more easily adoptable for apartment-dwellers where dogs are allowed, or 4 pit bulls who may not have as many housing options due to their size and breed?

We can play with the numbers all we like and come up with a presentation that best suits are purpose. We tend to forget that each number is a life, a life that hold no more and no less value than any other life. And each life has a story. That story must be taken into consider when analyzing the numbers.

This is why so many organizations are against breed specific legislation. The stories behind the numbers go beyond the breed of a dog. Leashed or unleashed; resident or family dog; tethered; roaming; was the dog abused?; did the child throw rocks at the dog; was the dog in a pack? Did the owner have the dog licensed to begin with? Or vaccinated? Was the owner responsible? The entire circumstance must be considered whether we are looking at euthanasia rates or dog bite statistics.

I urge to really consider the stories, the impact, the results that this ordinance will have in your community. Go beyond the numbers. You owe it to your community to delve deeper and find out why so many other progressive cities and states are repealing the very same sort of ordinances that you are trying to place on the books tonight.

Thank you,

Stephanie Wescott  
818/590-4132

## Jomsky, Mark

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**From:** cchick@gmail.com on behalf of Cindy Chick <cchick@charter.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 27, 2014 3:58 PM  
**To:** Morales, Margo  
**Cc:** McAustin, Margaret; Jomsky, Mark  
**Subject:** Re: Mandatory Spay/Neuter Law - Opposed

I understand that a breed-specific spay/neuter ordinance is on the agenda tonight, a little sooner than was expected. While this is quite different from what was proposed in October, which I appreciate, I seriously doubt it will solve the problem of the overpopulation of pit bulls. I don't have much time right now to put down my thoughts, but let me hit some high points.

The ordinance gets into trouble right away in an attempt to determine whether a dog is a pit bull. The difficulties of doing so are obvious, I suspect, especially with mixed-breeds. A lab mix could easily be labeled a pit bull. Trying to simply look at a dog to determine its breed is fraught with difficulty. And that alone, makes these kinds of ordinances ill-advised.

Also, the exemptions appear to be designed to ONLY apply to adult dogs. I'm guessing that's the intent, though it's not obvious on first reading. Since 4-month old puppies aren't eligible for agility, law enforcement or the show ring, it won't matter what function the puppies have been bred for, none will be exempt as far as I can tell.

My objections previously expressed based on health problems when neutering dogs too young still stand. With the larger breed dogs, neutering young can actually cause some animals to become oversized, which honestly seems like the opposite of what you're going for. There are other considerations as well, and I'm happy to provide further info if needed.

But mainly judging an entire breed, and one that has a wide variety of backgrounds, and are raised in dramatically different environments, just doesn't make sense. Some pit bulls are lovely dogs. Some aren't. You can't tell which is which by looking at them.

I've often thought that if the City wants to cut down on aggressive dogs/pit bulls, a crack-down on dog fighting within the city limits would be the most effective way to do so. Dog fighting is already illegal and constitutes animal abuse. Dogs that are bred for fighting are bred for their aggressive temperament. Dogs that don't cut it, are often abandoned on the city streets. I would be interested to know whether dog fighting is still taking place in Pasadena, and whether there has been a significant effort to stop it. I think that would go much farther in protecting Pasadena citizens from aggressive dogs than this well-meaning, but ill-advised ordinance that I honestly can't imagine is easily enforceable.

I'd be happy to discuss further.

Cindy Chick  
2154 Woodlyn Road  
Pasadena, CA 91104  
626-798-3912 (home)  
213-891-7242 (work)

## Iraheta, Alba

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**From:** cityclerk  
**Subject:** FW: 150 Pit Bulls walking happily around the Rose Bowl

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

**Sent:** Monday, January 27, 2014 3:46 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:** 150 Pit Bulls walking happily around the Rose Bowl

No more than 3 months ago, back in October of 2013, we had over 150 Pit Bull-type mixes walking around the Rose Bowl IN PASADENA. No incidents at all. Hope you will watch. These are the types of dogs that you will be criminalizing for doing nothing.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Am7R1C19yo8>

Josh Liddy, Pasadena resident



**Jomsky, Mark**

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**Subject:** FW: Please, No BSL  
**Attachments:** image.jpeg; ATT00001.txt

-----Original Message-----

From: Jynsen Collins [<mailto:jynsencollins@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Monday, January 27, 2014 3:56 PM

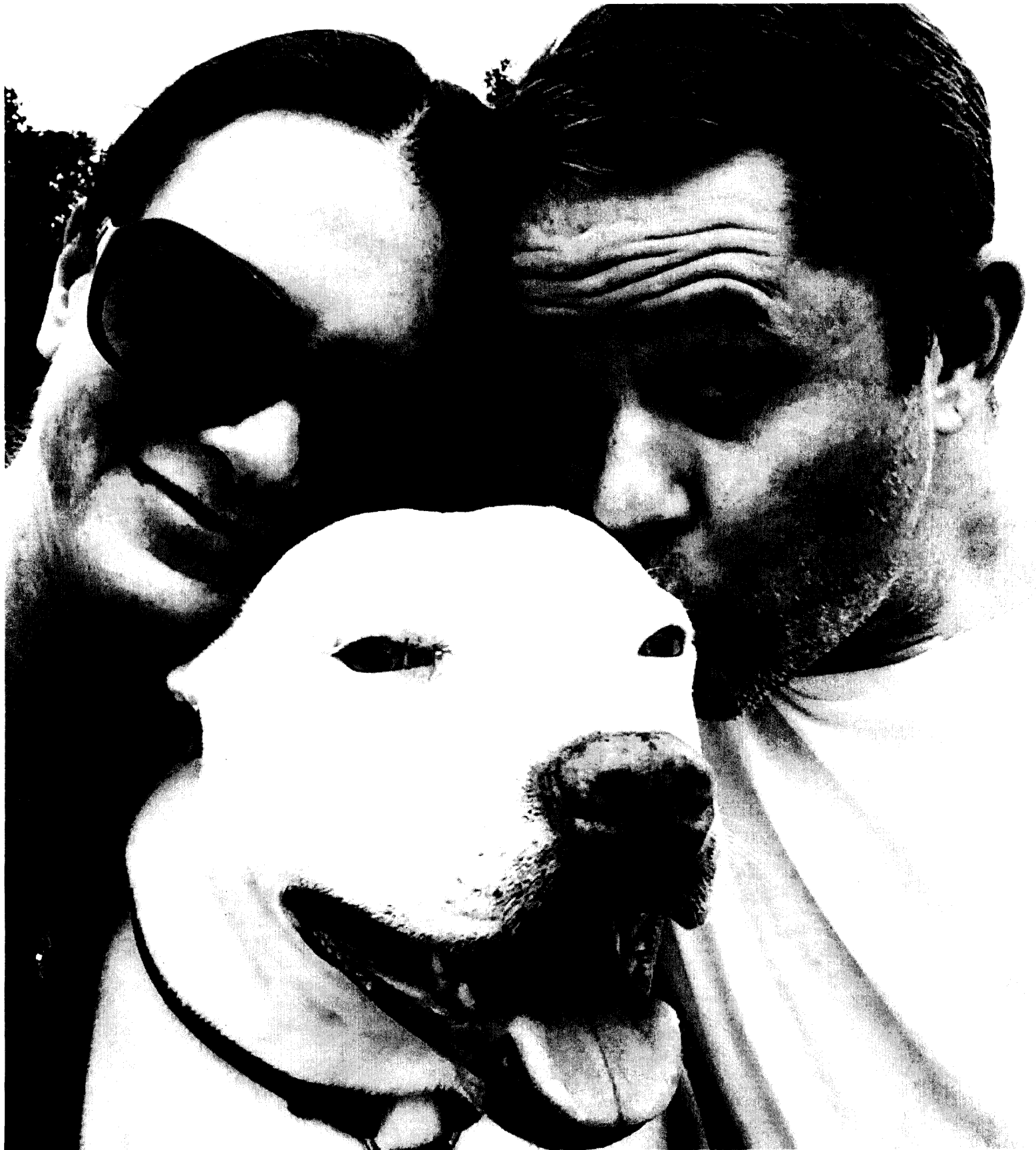
To: [bbogarrd@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:bbogarrd@cityofpasadena.net); Robinson, Jacque; McAustin, Margaret; Kennedy, John; Masuda, Gene; Gordo, Victor; Madison, Steve; Tornek, Terry; Beck, Michael; Gutierrez, Julie; Mermell, Steve; Bagneris, Michele; cityclerk; Foster, Siobhan; Walsh, Eric

Subject: Please, No BSL

This is our Pit, Annie. To know her is to love her.

How can you discriminate against this cutie and her fellow brothers and sisters? Please, no BSL! No H8!

Jynsen Collins &  
Andy Glass



**Jomsky, Mark**

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**Subject:** FW: Pit bill ordinance

**From:** jenny brewster [<mailto:c23j22@sbcglobal.net>]

**Sent:** Monday, January 27, 2014 4:28 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:** Pit bill ordinance

Hi my name is Jennifer Reynoso I live in the city of Burbank but I wanted to take time and let you know how unhappy I am with what you are trying to pass for only Pit bulls..... this is not a step in the right way it is a step backwards. If you want to help pass an ordinance to spary/neuter all breeds. There is NO place for breed discrimination in 2014. I am a dog parent and also foster for a group and the shelter I see these animals in need and it is heartbreaking but what you want to pass in not the answer to this problem that would be to stop the Backyard breeds that don't care for or about the animals it's all about the money. I have love for all animals... and it really is people that make them bad step up and do something about that. Please really think about what your city is trying to do help animals or hurt them....

Thank you  
Jennifer Reynoso

## Jomsky, Mark

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**From:** Stewart, Jana  
**Sent:** Monday, January 27, 2014 5:06 PM  
**To:** Jomsky, Mark  
**Subject:** FW: these adults are vouching for the dog, but they aren't little kids!

For your records...

**From:** Bill Stolbach [<mailto:stolbachbill@yahoo.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 27, 2014 4:22 PM  
**To:** Bogaard, Bill  
**Subject:** these adults are vouching for the dog, but they aren't little kids!

how would you like to be a 2 year old in a perambulator, and one of these pitbulls comes up to you and starts sniffing you while their own is busy texting on their cellphone?

These selfish adults who are protesting aren't putting themselves in the place of a little kid you could get KILLED or MAULED.

SPAY THESE DISGUSTING AGGRESSIVE DOGS!!!

## Jomsky, Mark

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**From:** Stewart, Jana  
**Sent:** Monday, January 27, 2014 5:09 PM  
**To:** Jomsky, Mark  
**Subject:** FW: Early Spay & Neutering in Dogs

For your records...

**From:** Cynthia McNamara [mailto:CMcnam8163@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 27, 2014 5:06 PM  
**To:** Bogaard, Bill  
**Subject:** Early Spay & Neutering in Dogs

Dear Mayor,

The following is about the harmful effects of early spaying and neutering and it applies to all dogs:

- A study conducted by researchers at the University of California, Davis provides more evidence that spaying and neutering – and the age at which the procedure is performed – may increase a dog's risk for joint disease and cancer.
- In the U.S., the definition of “responsible pet owner” is someone who spays or neuters his or her dog. In Europe, animal health experts do not promote spay/neuter, and a large percentage of dogs remain intact in many European countries.
- The UC Davis study looked at only one breed of dog (the Golden Retriever), both genders, and the affects of early, late and no spay/neuter on the development of two joint diseases and three types of cancer known to be prevalent in the breed.
- The study revealed that for all five diseases, the rates were significantly higher in both males and females that were neutered or spayed (before or after one year of age) compared with intact dogs.
- Particularly surprising is that study results showed a 100 percent increase in the rate of hip dysplasia in male Goldens neutered before 12 months of age. Ten percent were diagnosed with the condition, which was double the rate of occurrence in intact males.

Please do not discriminate against specific breeds of dogs, this has not worked in other communities and will not work in ours. As such, it will only be an added expense for our city, without justification or reward.

I have lived in Pasadena and owned Staffordshire Bull Terriers for over 40 years. My dogs have never presented a problem to this community, they are enjoyed by everyone who meets them including all our neighbors.

My family has contributed to this city for many years. My father being past President of the Oak Knoll Homeowners Assoc., we had monthly meeting at our home with our Staffordshire Bull Terriers greeting and welcoming everyone who attended.

Please do not make ignorant decisions based on ordinances enacted by Riverside or hyped news media reports.

Cynthia McNamara  
1375 So. Oak Knoll Ave.  
Pasadena, CA 91106

