

# Bulldog



# Banter

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## Mathis case continued until Jan. 9

You may recall an article in the April 2014 Bulldog Banter concerning Brenton Mathis of Virginia. Animal control and law enforcement officers confiscated his dogs and alleged he was dog fighting. Virginia is an intent state, meaning possession of American Pit Bull Terriers and a treadmill is enough for law enforcement to decide your "intent" is to fight dogs.

Endangered Breeds Association studied the case and gathered enough information to determine Mathis was not a dog fighter; and a retainer fee for Mathis' attorney, Terry Hughes, was approved by the EBA board of directors.

The case has been passed around between various courts in the Fluvanna area with no decision set. There are two cases - a criminal case on the dog fighting charge and a civil case alleging improper care of the dogs. The dogs were four adults and six puppies.

Various orders are being appealed; an appeal bond in one matter has been set at \$30,000; the criminal case has been continued until Jan. 9, 2015; and the civil case remains on appeal with no hearing date set.

Mathis' attorney would like to appeal the case to the Virginia Supreme Court and the EBA board is considering our next step. Mathis himself must also decide his next course of action.

## It's election time

Three Endangered Breeds Association board member terms will expire Jan. 1, 2015.

They include Sharon Sundy of California; Lisa Hutches of Florida, and Daline Bezerra of Texas. Sundy and Hutches have been re-nominated. Other nominations should be sent to EBA President Kim Krohn no later than Oct. 15. Nominations may be emailed to [krohndog@swbell.net](mailto:krohndog@swbell.net) or by phoning Krohn at 816-228-1512.

Voting will be in November.

## I will protect her



## From All Strangers

## Pit bull saves child from bees

*From News Services*

Hades, a pit bull, is doing her part to ensure the breed's good name. When Jesse-Cole Shaver; his sister, Jasmine; and some friends were playing in the Oregon woods, someone stepped on a rotten log — and bees zoomed out to attack.

Jesse-Cole, 8, was stung some 24 times, and he couldn't make it up a steep hill to escape. Fortunately, family dog Hades swooped in, pulling him by the pants up the hill, the New York Daily News reports.

"Hades saw me and came and

she dragged me up to the grass and stopped and let me crawl on her back and then took me to mom," the boy said. "I just heard a bunch of screaming, then I saw my dog dragging my son up by his pants," the mother said.

Jesse-Cole and Jasmine were taken to the hospital. Jasmine is also allergic to bees, but both kids were released within a matter of hours.

Hades was also fine, though she was stung as well. "I thank my puppy," says their mom. "I'm so glad we adopted her."

## Animal behaviorists take stand against BSL

*By Steve Dale*

*My Pet World (July 30, 2014)*

*Denver, Colo.*

At the Animal Behavior Symposium in July, the American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior (AVSAB) announced its rejection of breed-specific legislation (BSL) in a

new position paper.

Some communities - ironically including Denver - ban specific dog breeds. Pit bull-type dogs always top of the list (and are sometimes the only dogs on the list).

The position paper begins:

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**Memberships expire Dec. 31 unless multi-years are paid.**



**BULLDOG BANTER**

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The Bulldog Banter welcomes articles, news clippings, letters and other comments from its readers. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions as needed. All letters for publication must be signed.

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E-mail your photograph to [featuresboss@yahoo.com](mailto:featuresboss@yahoo.com). Photographs are printed as space allows. Include your name, your pet's name and the town where you live. NO SALES.

**DOG RULES**

1. The dog is not allowed in the house.
2. OK, the dog is allowed in the house but only in certain rooms.
3. The dog is allowed in all rooms but has to stay off the furniture.
4. The dog can get on the old furniture only.
5. The dog is allowed on all furniture, but is not allowed to sleep with humans on the bed.
6. OK, the dog is allowed in the bed but only by invitation.
7. The dog can sleep on the bed whenever he wants but not under the covers.
8. The dog can sleep under the covers by invitation only.
9. The dog can sleep under the covers any time.
10. Humans must ask permission to sleep under the covers with the dog.

**Check out HUSU's new math**

*By J. Scott Olmstead  
Editor in Chief  
NRA American Hunter*

The Humane Society of the United States is not affiliated with local humane societies; it only gives 1 percent of the money it raises to pet shelters. HUSU is in fact, the most virulent and well-funded anti-hunting organization in the nation. As more Americans learn this, many local shelters have begun to remove "humane society" from their names to avoid confusion with the deceptive fundraiser.

Here's another zinger: HSUS records its public service television, radio and news-

paper announcements as contributions and expenses on its tax returns. The practice makes HSUS appear to spend more on its programs since the value of PSAS is included in program expenses. How much value?

According to its tax forms, the group's PSAS increased from about \$4.3 million in 2009 to \$15.7 million in 2010 to \$17.7 million in 2011.

The truth is such broadcast and print space is donated to HSUS free of charge. Reporting it as "contributions and expenses" in financial statements of charity tax filings violates Internal Revenue Service rules. I guess they call that "new math."



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## BSL

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“AVSAB is concerned about the propensity of various communities’ reliance on BSL as a tool to decrease the risk of dog bites to humans. AVSAB’s position is that such legislation is ineffective.”

When a serious dog bite occurs, or worse yet, someone is killed as a result of a dog bite, it’s a tragedy. But is there really an epidemic of dog bites in America, as some stories in the popular press maintain?

According to the 2013-2014 American Pet Products Association National Pet Owners Survey, there are 83.3 million dogs in America, and according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), about 4.5 million dog bites per year.

Looking at those numbers more carefully, most dog bites occur within families (and mostly to children), and experts agree that with adult supervision and appropriate socialization of dogs to children, most bites could be prevented.

Just over two percent of all bites require a hospital stay, according to the AVSAB position statement. What’s most relevant is that there’s absolutely no evidence that banning breeds has any impact on dog bite numbers.

Between 1999 and 2006, an average of 27 people (in the U.S.) died annually as a result of a dog attack, according to a published report in the Journal of the American Medical Association - a number which, of course, should be lower.

Still, it turns out that people are far more dangerous to people than dogs are to people. Over 1,500 children died of child abuse and/or neglect within their own families in 2010 (according to the Administration for Children and Families); and there were over 16,000 homicides in the U.S. in 2010 (says the CDC). Sadly, in some major U.S. cities, more than 27 people may die of homicides in a month, according to the FBI.

A common refrain is, “Everyone knows that when dogs do attack, it’s a pit bull responsible.” Actually, the CDC stopped tracking breeds responsible for serious dog attacks many years ago for two reasons: The agency felt what’s most important was what led individual dogs to attack in the first place. And in any case, breeds were likely being misidentified.

It turns out cutting-edge genetic testing has proven that the CDC was right. Various studies utilizing modern genetic testing confirm that dogs with a “pit bull look” are mostly merely mixed-breed dogs, often with no real pit bull in them at all. How a dog looks (phenotype)

doesn’t necessarily match up with what a dog is genetically (genotype).

However, in communities where breed-specific legislation exists, dogs who happen to match a profile consistent with what officials believe looks like a pit bull can be removed from a family, even euthanized, though that dog has done nothing wrong.

The reality is, there are lots of dogs in America with a profile that matches that of what many would call a “pit bull.” Arguably, dogs with this general look you might as well describe at the All-American dog because there are so many of them. The overwhelming majority are family pets with no history of biting.

Besides, data indicates that BSL doesn’t improve community safety. In 2008, the Dutch government repealed a 15-year nationwide pit bull ban after a government study demonstrated that the ban was ineffective. A year later, Italy repealed its ban, with both countries instead concentrating on supporting responsible ownership.

Closer to home, Denver enacted its breed ban in 1989. Since then, the rate of hospitalizations in Denver due to dog bite-related injuries has been higher than in nearby breed-neutral Boulder, CO, according to the AVSAB position statement.

In 2013, a national study in Canada found that BSL wasn’t an effective tool to lower dog attacks. However, public education and the fact that dog owners are taking more responsibility for their pets’ actions, have proved extremely effective.

In Calgary, for example, proactive public education programs resulted in a 50 percent decrease in reports of dog aggression. An important focus of these programs is humane education in schools.

Often dangerous dogs are intertwined with socio-economic issues. It’s those issues that public officials need to focus, not a dog breed.

The AVSAB position statement is free to download at <http://avsabonline.org/resources/position-statements>. Full disclosure: I co-authored this position statement with veterinary behaviorist Dr. Sagi Denenberg, of Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

*(Steve Dale welcomes questions/comments from readers. He will answer those of general interest in his column Send e-mail to PET-WORLD@STEVE DALE.TV. Include your name, city and state. Steve’s website is <http://www.stevedalepetworld.com>; he also hosts the nationally syndicated “Steve Dale’s Pet World” and “The Pet Minute.” He’s also a contributing editor to USA Weekend.)*



# Around the Nation

## *Legislation that affects you*

This information is compiled from reports to Endangered Breeds Association, American Dog Breeders Association, and American Kennel Club. For the latest information on any of these issues, contact your elected city, county, or state officials.

**ALABAMA** — The Montgomery City Council voted to approve amendments to the city animal control ordinance that establish new definitions, enact new dangerous animal provisions, redefine the powers of animal control officers, and require a resident of the city who owns five or more dogs or cats or who breeds even a single litter to obtain a permit.

**CALIFORNIA** — Assembly Bill 1520 would allow the court to appoint a guardian ad litem for a pet that is the subject of a pet trust in certain circumstances. It has passed the Assembly and the Senate Judiciary Committee and is pending on the Senate floor.

Assembly Bill 1809 would require Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) for dogs entering the state for sale or transfer. The person who brings the dog into the state would be required to submit the CVI to the local county health department. The original bill would have impacted all animals coming into California, even those traveling as family pets or for participation in a show or event. Language has been amended so that dogs not intended for resale and certain other dogs are exempted. The bill has passed the Senate and is awaiting concurrence in Senate amendments from the Assembly.

Assembly Bill 1965 would authorize retail food establishments to permit dogs in outdoor eating areas. It would also allow local governments to prohibit the practice. The measure has passed both houses of the legislature and is pending before Governor Brown.

The Pasadena City Council voted 5-3 to direct staff to draft a mandatory spay/neuter ordinance for consideration.

**FLORIDA** — The Lee County Board of Commissioners enacted significant changes to the county animal control code including breeder licensing, warrantless inspections, mandatory spay/neuter and restrictions on keeping dogs outside (even in fenced yards). The commission has directed the animal control director to meet with interested stakeholders, including breeders, to discuss possible modifications. Local owners are working with staff

to finalize revisions for commission approval.

The Miami-Dade County Commission is considering an expansion of their strict breeder regulations ordinances. Owners are working to educate the commission about responsible breeding practices and to help them find more effective solutions to their animal control issues.

**INDIANA** — The Kokomo City Council has given initial approval to a new dangerous/vicious dog law. Owners of dogs declared "potentially dangerous" would be required to obtain at least \$50,000 of liability insurance. A final vote is expected soon.

**LOUISIANA** — In response to a recent attack in neighboring Terrebonne Parish earlier this year, Lafourche Parish Councilman John Arnold publicly discussed introducing breed-specific restrictions. Several concerned residents contacted the council, which instead considered breed-neutral updates to the Parish's dangerous dog ordinances. That proposal ultimately lacked sufficient support to pass. Councilman Arnold recently re-introduced similar breed-neutral amendments to the Parish's dangerous dog ordinance, which will likely be considered.

**MASSACHUSETTS** — The "Protecting Animal Welfare and Safety" bill recently passed both houses of the Commonwealth's legislature, and currently awaits Governor Deval Patrick's signature. The bill increases fines and maximum incarceration sentences for cruelty offenders, requires veterinarians to report suspected animal abuse, and creates a new task force to review methods to prevent animal abuse.

**MICHIGAN** — House Bill 5095/Senate Bill 560 would, among other provisions, limit the number of dogs that can be kept on a single premises and define a "large scale commercial breeder kennel" as one where more than 15 intact female dogs are kept for the purpose of breeding. The bill also includes new regulations and reporting requirements for animal control and animal protection shelters. The House Regulatory Reform Committee passed HB 5095 and it is pending action by the full House of Representatives. The Senate Agriculture Committee has heard testimony on SB 560, but no vote has been taken. The legislature recently returned from summer recess, but no hearing has been scheduled.

House Bill 5721 would expand the laws regarding dangerous dogs, create a new designation of "potentially dangerous" dogs and significantly increase penalties for owners who own a dog declared "dangerous" or "potentially dangerous" and do not comply with all requirements set out in the bill. There are some concerns with the bill, including requiring a dog declared "potentially dangerous" to be sterilized, even though the designation may be removed if the owner can demonstrate that the dog no longer poses a risk to public safety. The bill was introduced on August 13 and assigned to the House Committee on Criminal Justice. No hearing has been scheduled.

**NEW YORK** — The Nassau County Legislature passed a law on August 4 that would regulate those in the county who meet the state definition of "pet dealers" (those who sell or offer to sell 9 or more dogs a year. Those who raise 25 dogs or fewer in a year at their residence are exempt). Much of the proposal is virtually identical to the language recently adopted by Suffolk County (which included a number of amendments). An amendment was approved by the county to allow dogs to be sold at 8 weeks of age. As introduced, the bill would have prohibited any sales until the puppy was 14 weeks old.

The New York City Council Committee on Health is considering four measures that would redefine "pet store" to mean anyone who sells even one dog to the general public for a profit. Introduction 136 would further require anyone who meets this definition to have animals sterilized prior to transfer to the new owner. Dogs and cats must be 8 weeks old prior to sterilization. Exemptions from sterilization would require a letter from a veterinarian stating the animal cannot be sterilized at that time. This letter only applies for 4 months. Introduction 55 would also create many new requirements for "pet shops", including prohibiting them from obtaining dogs from anyone who has an ownership interest in one female and sells or offers to sell 50 dogs/year, or from anyone who has an ownership interest in 20 female dogs. The measure would also establish many other requirements, including regular site visits from a veterinarian.

**NORTH CAROLINA** — Senate Bill 744, the Appropriations Act (the state budget)

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# THE DEED ... NOT THE BREED!

The American Kennel Club\* believes a dog should be judged by its deeds, not its breed. We support reasonable, enforceable, non-discriminatory laws that govern the ownership of all dogs, regardless of breed or type.

Breed-specific legislation hurts responsible dog owners, does not protect communities and distracts from the real issue – responsible dog ownership. AKC knows there are better, more effective alternatives.

**Support AKC efforts to stop breed-specific legislation.**

**To find out how you can help, visit [www.akc.org/governmentrelations](http://www.akc.org/governmentrelations) or contact the AKC's Government Relations Department.**



Staffordshire Bull Terrier



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American Kennel Club has an online flyer — “The Deed Not The Breed” — and an updated position statement on breeding regulations and restrictions.

This information may be helpful to you.

The flyer makes a strong statement against breed-specific legislation, while the position statement speaks of opposition to regulating individuals as “breeders” based solely on the number of dogs they own.

## Legislation

### Continued from Page 4

for 2014, passed the General Assembly without problematic amendments initially approved by the House. The House amendments would have transferred jurisdiction of the state’s Animal Welfare Act out of the state Department of Agriculture to the Department of Public Safety, and established vague new dog dealer definitions that would have required individuals who own more than 10 intact female dogs to be licensed and regulated by the state as commercial “dog dealers”, regardless of actual breeding or commercial activity. It also would have transferred funds from the state’s spay/neuter program to set up a fund that would allow donations by private groups to pay for kennel inspections required by the proposed new regulations. These amendments were not included in the final budget that has been signed by the governor.

**OHIO** — A proposal has been introduced by the Cincinnati City Council that would reinstate breed-specific restrictions and requirements. The city had breed-specific policies for many years, but repealed them in 2012. In addition,

the proposal would require that all dogs, regardless of breed, be kept on a chain link leash anytime the dog is off the owner’s property — including when a dog is training or participating in shows or other competitive events. No dog leashes longer than 6 feet in length would be permitted. The proposal could be considered in September.

**PENNSYLVANIA** — Senate Bill 82 would make positive changes to the commonwealth’s consumer protection laws. Among other changes, it clarifies that a dog cannot be declared “unfit for purchase” if the dog has intestinal or external parasites (unless the dog is clinically ill or dies), if the dog has an injury or illness likely contracted after the sale, or if the dog has a health problem that is disclosed in writing by the seller prior to the sale. The bill would also make reasonable changes to the timeframe for when a dog may be declared unfit for purchase and when the seller must be notified. It was amended by the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee to require rescues and shelters to provide certain information regarding the animal’s health care and known illnesses prior to

sale.

Senate Bill 1068 would make several amendments regarding field trials and dog training areas in the state. These amendments include making it unlawful for anyone to “willfully, negligently or maliciously” kill, injure or interfere with a dog engaged in training or field trials within a designated dog training area. It also makes it unlawful for someone to negligently or maliciously interfere with a person training dogs, participating in field trial events, or lawfully hunting or trapping in a designated dog training area. Another amendment changes the minimum area for dog training areas from 100 acres to 50 acres. The bill unanimously passed the Senate and is pending in the House Game and Fisheries Committee.

**TEXAS** — In an effort to address both animal health and shelter population issues in Amarillo, the city’s Animal Management and Welfare Board recently voted to recommend an ordinance to the city council mandating microchipping of all pets. The board is currently drafting a pet registration program that would also require vaccinations.



**ABOUT THE**  
**ENDANGERED**  
**BREEDS**  
**ASSOCIATION**

(EBA) is a non-profit organization founded in 1980 for the purpose of preserving the American Pit Bull Terrier. Our goals are public education, media monitoring, legislative lobbying, and legal intervention to protect responsible owners from breed-specific legislation and unfair harassment by public officials or agen-

cies. We oppose animal abuse or any illegal activities with animals. Membership is \$15-single and \$20-family per year or \$300-lifetime with members receiving three newsletters a year. Canadian and overseas members please send US dollars money orders only. All memberships expire Dec. 31 of each year.

**EBA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!)

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By providing your e-mail address, you agree to receive your newsletter via e-mail.  
Membership type: New \_\_\_\_\_ Renew \_\_\_\_\_ Single \_\_\_\_\_ Family \_\_\_\_\_ Lifetime \_\_\_\_\_

Information packet included

Please make check or money order payable to the Endangered Breeds Association and mail to:  
Joan Morrison, Route 1, Box 71, Gore, OK 74435

**ENDANGERED BREEDS ASSOCIATION**

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