

Bulldog Banter



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Animal Advocates Vow to Keep Fighting for Beloved Pit Bulls

By Arin Greenwood

The Huffington Post

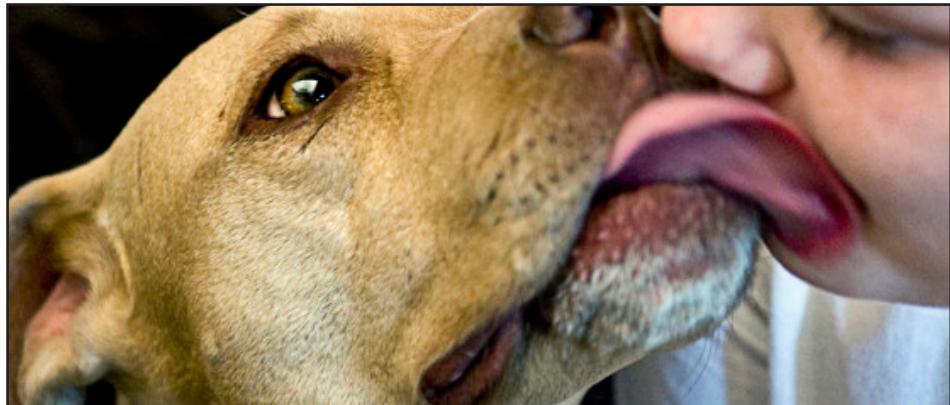
Voters in Aurora, Colo., has elected to keep their city's 9-year-old ban on pit bulls.

The final tally showed 54,809 residents voted to support the ban, while 27,050 voted to scrap it.

Nancy Tranzow, founder of the advocacy group ColoRADogs, told The Huffington Post that though she's disappointed in Tuesday's result, the group is "not even close to done" fighting the ban.

"We'll go back to the drawing table, and with more time to inform the discussion, we will revisit it when we can work to both gather signatures and educate people about why breed-neutral legislation is what protects public safety," she said. "I worked way too many years in [the fight for] LGBT rights to not have a few tricks up my sleeve."

Tuesday's vote was "unfortunate for Aurora's families and the dogs they love," said Cory Smith, director of pet protection and policy for the Humane Society, in a statement.



But animal advocates say that despite Tuesday's vote, they are heartened that more communities are coming to reject "breed specific legislation," or laws and regulations that restrict or prohibit ownership of dogs by breed.

Groups like the American Bar Association and the American Veterinary Medical Association - and even President Obama - have come out against such laws on the grounds they are expensive to enforce and

lead to a surfeit of homeless pets, while forcing families to choose between their homes and their pets, without any increase in public safety.

"These bans are inhumane, ineffective and based on myth and misinformation," Smith said. "Aurora's breed ban is one of very few left on the books because communities are waking up to the reality that managing dogs effectively has nothing to do with breed."

Don't miss the fun at EBA Auction

Each year, during the bi-annual American Dog Breeders Association Convention, Endangered Breeds Association conducts a fund-raising auction.

If you've ever attended, you know the bidding can be furious, and the fun tops-notch.

At the last auction, a silent bidding period was held during the Saturday convention program. Sign-up sheets were available next to each item and many wrote down their bids. Saturday night, the bidding began at the last price bid for each item. This resulted in a speedier auction and those participating said they liked this

process better.

Anyone who would like to donate an auction item should bring it to the convention, which is set for Feb. 14 and 15 at the Palace Station Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nev.

If you plan to attend the convention, room reservations should be made by Jan. 23 for a discounted rate. A limited number of rooms have been blocked at the discount rate. Tower standard rooms are \$99 for Friday and Saturday, and \$40 for Sunday. Service fees and taxes will be added per room per night. Contact the reservation office at 1-800-634-3101

and identify yourself as an attendee of the ADBA convention or use reservation ID PCIADBA.

Pre-registration is \$25 and includes entrance to the convention, buffet coupon for lunch (includes tax and gratuity), and entrance to the hospitality suite on Saturday.

Pre-registration is due to ADBA in Salt Lake City, Utah, by Friday, Feb. 6. A fee of \$40 per person will be charged at the convention for those not previously registered.

For further information, contact heather@adba.cc

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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Golden State Pit Bull Club wins annual Las Vegas trip

Each year, Endangered Breeds Association sponsors a trip to the annual American Dog Breeders Association Convention in Las Vegas, NV, Feb. 14 and 15, 2015. Winner of the trip is chosen from a club member of one of the 100 percent EBA clubs.

This year's winning club is Golden State Pit Bull Club in California. Members of Golden State will choose one of its members for the trip.

EBA will pay air fare or gasoline expenses (up to \$500) and two nights' stay at the Palace Station Hotel where the convention will be held.

Winners to each convention are chosen from 100 percent clubs. A 100 percent club is one in which all members are also members of EBA. This year's 100 percent clubs included Cajun Country, Sho-Me-State, Southern California, Golden State, and Lone Star State.

If your club would like to be included, send EBA membership dues for all members. If joining through a club, annual dues are \$10 for singles and \$15 for families. Regular dues if not joining through a club are \$15 for singles and \$20 for families.

Making headway on BSL

For many years, owners of American Pit Bull Terriers have fought on the local, state and federal level for common-sense laws, ordinances and regulations aimed at their dogs.

And there have been many successes. There also have been some laws adopted that are far from fair and greatly lack in common sense. The fight has included attending meetings and legislative sessions; writing letters; visiting with elected officials; and voting.

Now owners can see some progress. Between January 2012 and May 2014, 163 states and municipalities have rejected, repealed or enacted pre-emptions to BSL. These join several other states and municipalities which already had taken these steps.

During the January 2012 to May 2014 period, there were 97 BSL repeals; 61 BSL

rejections; and 5 BSL pre-emptions. This compares to only 21 municipalities that enacted BSL.

The work is not over. These 21 municipalities need work to repeal the laws they enacted. Many municipalities are enacting mandatory spay/neuter laws; stricter leash laws; anti-tether laws; outdoor restrictions; insurance requirements; and more. Many states are passing breeder bills which limit the number of dogs one may own; limit the number of puppies that can be sold; set strict requirements for space a dog may be kept in; and carry stiff health requirements.

While it may be tempting to feel a sense of accomplishment in one area, don't let your guard down and ignore what is on the horizon.

EBA board members named

Sharon Sundy of California, and Lisa Hutchess of Florida, were renamed to the Endangered Breeds Association board of directors during the annual election in November.

Both women were re-nominated, however since there were no other

nominees, they were renamed to the board and there was no election. A third seat on the board, which will run from 2015 to 2017, remains open and will be discussed during the annual EBA board meeting February 13 in Las Vegas. All board members are urged to attend.



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Life memberships grow with Canada

Ward Lund of Raymond, Alberta Canada, recently became Endangered Breeds Association's newest life member. He also is the only life member from Canada.

Lund's membership brings the total of life memberships to 29. Current life members include: John & Denise Boos, Lakkeville, MN; John & Laura Bowman, Norman, OK; James Brewer, Austin, TX; Jean Carpenter, Albany, LA; Gary & Linda Emmert, Seneca, MO; Galveston County Kennel Club, Santa Fe, TX; Hank & Robin Greenwood, Layton, UT; Kate Greenwood, Sandy, UT; Renee Greenwood, Salt Lake City, UT; Tom Grundwald, Moline, IL; Joel Halverson, Kelso, WA; Gary Hammonds, Mansfield, TX; Jason & Wanda Hawthorn, Sandheimer, LA; Ed & Jeanne Hinkle, Gainesville, TX; Russ & Kim Krohn, Blue Springs, MO; JoAnn LeBlanc, Dayton, TX; Bill & Janice Livingstone III, Dallas,

TX; Anthony Lopez, Port Saint Lucie, FL; Lund; Calvin & Joan Morrison, Gore, OK; Sheila Newland, Victoria, TX; Chris & Kristi Pena, Richland, MS; Nathan Pilgrim, Stanley, NC; Richard Stratton, San Diego, CA; Chris & Tiffany Taylor, Coldwater, MS; Tulsa Dog Training Club, Tulsa, OK; Larry Wallerstei, Los Angeles, CA; Mike Wood, Ardmore, OK; and Kelly & Sherry Young, Temperance, MI.

Lifetime memberships are \$300. All other memberships are \$15 for singles and \$20 for families. All memberships expire Dec. 31 of each year unless multi year memberships are paid. Expiration dates are noted on membership cards.

Dec. 31 isn't that far away. Please check your membership card and if your membership expires this year, please help our cause and renew.

Cop feels threatened, shoots dog

A Tulsa police officer shot a dog early Sept. 11. The dog survived, but her owner is upset - while the police say the officer was just protecting himself.

The officer fired three times - and hit the dog at least once - which despite being injured, took off and ran several miles before someone found it and got in touch with the owner.

Ruby is a 3-year-old pit bull. She's leaving one vet clinic for specialized care at another, after she was shot Thursday morning by a Tulsa police officer. Some reports say the dog was inside a fence; others say the dog was on her own property but not on a leash or inside a fence.

"I'm sure she could look threatening; she could look scary; it's her territory - it's her property," said owner Lana Ellsbury. That's about as much credit as the dog's owner is willing to give the officer who shot her. The officer was checking an alarm call at a house when the dog came around the corner of another house, according to the officer, barking and ready to bite.

"He's at the point now that there's no

return, either take a dog bite or be mauled or protect himself and that officer chose to protect himself," said Officer Leland Ashley, Tulsa Police.

The police say it's clear cut, but Janet Ellsbury, who heard it all happen, thinks the officer should have retreated to his car or somehow fought off the dog.

"And I just think something else could have been done other than shooting that dog three times," said Janet Ellsbury. Ruby has several wounds, but it's not clear how many times she was hit. She took off running from the scene, near the airport, and was found along a road in Catoosa.

Ruby is going to recover, but needs surgery, and Ruby's owner wants something from the police.

"I want an apology from the officer for one and I want them to pay for everything," Lana said.

There was another dog shot by an off-duty officer later Sept. 11. He was walking his dog when he felt threatened by the dog and shot it. The department considers that, too, simply an act of defense.



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.

CALIFORNIA — The Pasadena City Council voted 5-3 to approve the first reading of an ordinance which will institute breeder restrictions and mandatory spay/neuter. This issue began as a proposed breed ban, then breed-specific mandatory spay/neuter and emerged in final form as a mandatory spay/neuter ordinance affecting all dogs.

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 fanciers are working with staff to finalize revisions for commission approval.

GEORGIA — The Augusta/Richmond Commission returned to committee with a request for changes to a proposed ordinance that would require dogs six months and older to be surgically sterilized unless the owner obtains an unaltered animal permit. "Registered" service dogs, "actively competitive" show or hunting dogs, and dogs with serious health conditions would be exempt. Additional problematic provisions would empower animal services personnel to seize and destroy an animal believed to be "diseased" or "crippled" with no notification to the owner, require enclosures of 100 square feet per dog, and require owners to provide veterinary care for every minor injury or illness. As originally written, the proposal would require a greater level of health care for animals than is required for children.

INDIANA — The Tippecanoe County Commission has proposed a rewrite of the county's animal control code. Among new provisions is a mandatory spay/neuter requirement for all dogs at least 6 months of age, unless the owner purchases a breeder permit. The permit must be renewed annually and allows for one litter to be bred per year. On October 20, the commission agreed to temporarily table the

ordinance and appoint a task force.

MASSACHUSETTS — The "Protecting Animal Welfare and Safety" bill was signed into law by Governor Patrick. 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 House has placed House Bill 5095 on the calendar for a vote, which could occur at any time.

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 has been assigned to the House Committee on Criminal Justice. No hearing has been scheduled.

NEVADA — The Washoe County Board of Commissioners has held multiple public hearings regarding changes to the county's animal control code. A revised draft is expected to come before the commission after January 1, 2015. Proposed changes include breeder licensing, dangerous dog updates, changing nuisance regulations and possible regulation of retail sales. Some of the changes will bring the county into compliance with new state laws but in some cases definitions are changed or expanded.

NEW JERSEY — Assembly Bill 2961/Senate Bill 1341 supports legislation

enacted in 2009 by establishing a penalty for failure to include a bittering agent in antifreeze. SB 1341 has already unanimously passed the Senate, while AB 2961 is under first committee consideration. Both bills have passed the Assembly Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee.

AB 3306 and SB 1870 seek to impose additional requirements on pet shops and pet dealers, including providing consumers with specific breeder information; posting information on enclosures and in internet/print advertisements; prohibiting pet shops from selling, offering for sale, or purchasing for resale, any animal purchased from any breeder/broker who fail to meet certain standards; mandating that pet shops submit annual reports to the state; and allowing localities to impose more significant restrictions. Failure to comply with the requirements and prohibitions established under the bills would result in a \$500 penalty. Both bills have passed the Assembly Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee.

AB 3381, as introduced, expands the animal cruelty statute to include theft or release of animals during burglary. This bill has passed the Assembly Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee.

AB 991 seeks to establish a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment for harming or threatening to harm animals owned or used by a law enforcement agency or a search and rescue dog. This bill has passed the Assembly Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee.

AB 2389 attempts to bar employment at animal-related enterprises, or ownership of animals, for at least two years, of those convicted of or found civilly liable for any animal crime; permits courts to order forfeiture of animals of those found guilty/civilly liable for violating animal statutes; provides for new animal control officer rules and regulations; and creates a statewide animal cruelty registry. This bill has passed the Assembly Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee.

NEW YORK — A 4735/S 7846 require a designated area for hand washing/sanitizing at any place where animals are "kept for the express purpose of viewing, touching, holding, and petting by patrons and visitors". This area, which must be no more than 50 feet from the exit of the event, must be clearly designated as a

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Legislation

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hand washing facility. This could be a sink with soap and running water, or if not available, anti-bacterial gels and antiseptic wipes are acceptable. A sign must be posted by the exit that states, "Animals may carry germs and bacteria that cause disease. It is strongly recommended that persons wash their hands upon exiting." This is a positive measure that will protect public health, and also the health of animals owned by visitors, patrons, and exhibitors. It has been signed by the governor and goes into effect in March 2015.

Numerous counties are seeking to regulate "pet dealers" after a measure was signed by the governor in 2013 that allows local governments to create their own regulations. A "pet dealer" is defined in New York as a person who sells more than 9 dogs in a year, unless those dogs are bred and raised on someone's residential premises. If the dogs are raised on a person's premises, then they are a pet dealer when they sell 25 or more dogs/year.

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 per 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.

The Westchester County Legislature is seeking to regulate pet dealers in response to the state legislation passed in 2013 allowing local governments to establish their own laws on pet dealers, so long as they were not less strict than state statutes. Currently, the legislature is discussing a model ordinance put forward by ASPCA that would require local licensing for those who meet the definition of pet dealers (it is presumed this would be in addition to state licensing), as well as inspections. The licensing program and inspections could either be handled by the local government, or contracted out to a local organization. The model also includes requirements for specific temperature ranges for kennels and a prohibition on stacked crates of dogs

older than 12 weeks of age.

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.

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 time-frame 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.

TENNESSEE — The Chattanooga Animal Control Board has proposed a restrictive animal ordinance that would redefine "kennel" under city code and require difficult-to-obtain \$300 annual "kennel" and "dealer" permits. Permit holders would be required to allow unlimited inspections of private homes where animals are allowed access and of computers where animal records are kept. Home-based hobby breeders would not be allowed to offer for sale the offspring of more than two litters of puppies or kittens per year. Any person who sells, exchanges, or gives away a cat or dog would be required to provide documentation that the animal had received a specific list of vaccinations. No exceptions would be provided for a pet owner advised

by a veterinarian to provide an alternate vaccination protocol. The proposal could be considered at any city council meeting.

WISCONSIN — Four proposals have been introduced by the Madison City Council to address at-large and dangerous dogs. Among the proposals are regulations for "home-based" breeders and the possibility for mandatory sterilization of any dog without exception that has caused injury (including a bite of any severity), even on the owner's property. "Home-based" breeders could not breed more than one litter per year unless they are "AKC sanctioned" and have participated in an AKC conformation show within the past year.

FEDERAL REGULATION — The "Farm Bill" (HR 2642) and Farm Bill Conference Report passed by Congress and signed by the President earlier this year provide two changes to reduce the number of small hobby breeders subject to federal regulation as pet dealers under the US Animal Welfare Act as amended by the 2013 Retail Pet Store Rule. It directs USDA APHIS to prepare specific new rules that exempt small breeders who maintain more than four "breeding females" but do not transfer more than a "de minimis" (minimal) number of pets sight unseen. The conference report further directs APHIS to clarify the term "breeding female" to mean only those female animals capable of reproduction and actively being used in a breeding program should qualify as breeding females. By including only those animals currently part of an active breeder program, breeders will be able to maintain retired intact females or grow out young females without fear of triggering federal licensing requirements.

FEDERAL/CONGRESS — HR 5449 (the Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act of 2014) authorizes federal support for passenger rail programs. Introduced in September, H.R. 5449 includes language that would create a pilot program that allows, where feasible, ticketed passengers on certain routes to transport pets as carry-on baggage or as cargo in accordance with Amtrak cargo stowage requirements. The House Transportation and Infrastructure committee approved the bill Sept. 17.

FEDERAL/CONGRESS — HR 2066/S 1710 ("Pets on Trains Act of 2013"), would require Amtrak, when feasible, to designate at least one car where passengers may transport a dog or cat if the pet is in a kennel that can be stowed according to Amtrak's requirements for carry-on baggage. Passengers could transport dogs or cats as cargo if the pets are in a kennel, the cargo area is temperature controlled, and the passenger is travelling less than 750 miles. Passengers would be required to pay a fee. H.R. 2066 is pending in the House Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, & Hazardous Materials. S.1710 is pending in the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science & Transportation.



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!)

Name (s) _____ Occupation _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ E-mail _____ 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:
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