Celebrating Animals | Confronting Cruelty Worldwide



HUMANE SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

CANADA

hsicanada.ca





Active programs in companion animals, wildlife and habitat protection, marine mammal preservation, farm animal welfare and animals in research





Breed-Specific Legislation (BSL)



Who is opposed to BSL?

- All the major veterinary associations in North America (**AVMA**, **CVMA**, **OMVQ**, **AVSAB**, etc.)
- National kennel clubs (**AKC**, **CKC**)
- **American Bar Association**: « the ABA urges all state, territorial and local legislative bodies and governmental agencies to adopt comprehensive breed-neutral dangerous dog/reckless owner laws that ensure due process protections for owners, encourage responsible pet ownership and focus on the behavior of both dog owners and dogs, and to repeal any breed discriminatory or breed specific provisions. »
- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:** « Any dog of any breed has the potential to bite. »
- 21 American states (prohibit BSL on a municipal level)
- **Obama Administration**: « We don’t support breed-specific legislation – research shows that bans on certain types of dogs are largely ineffective and often a waste of public resources. »

Who is opposed to BSL?

- **Quebec Government, June 2018**: "[Public] consultations highlighted that there was no scientific consensus to identify a breed of dog as potentially dangerous and that, even in provinces where such legislation exists, municipalities declared that they were unable to apply such measures. Therefore, the government has proposed amendments to the bill, in order to remove the provisions targeting the breed or type of dog while maintaining strict regulatory standards that will apply throughout the province of Quebec."

- **Valérie Plante, mayor of Montreal, who repealed BSL:** "There is no perfect by-law, but one that focuses on responsible pet ownership towards an animal, and also towards the entire population of Montreal, is the right direction to take."

Why?

- **Inefficient**: unscientific, based on myths and the false idea that breed determines the behavior of a dog
- **Unenforcable**: visual identification does not work
- **Waste of resources**: costly to apply, diverts resources from more effective animal control and public safety initiatives



«no person may bring into the City of Winnipeg, or being its owner, allow in the City of Winnipeg, a dog which has the appearance and physical characteristics predominantly conforming to the standards of the Canadian Kennel Club or the United Kennel Club for any of the following breeds':

American Pit Bull Terrier
Staffordshire Bull Terrier
American Staffordshire Terrier»



When we look at a dog and see breed, we are seeing
ONLY ROUGHLY 50 of their nearly **20,000 GENES**

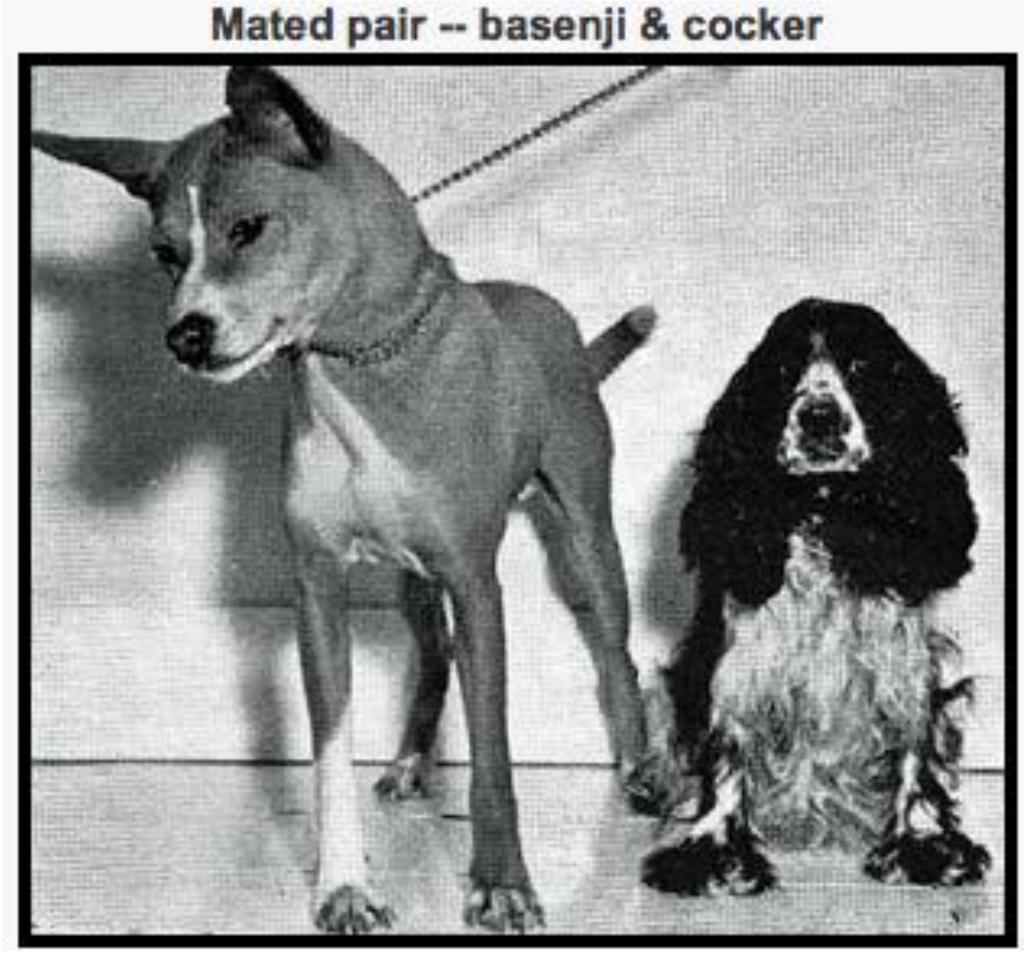
0.25%



That is **0.25%** of a dog's
ENTIRE GENOME.

The set of **50** genes associated with physical appearance is **DIFFERENT** from the set of thousands of genes responsible for ***brain development*** and ***function.***

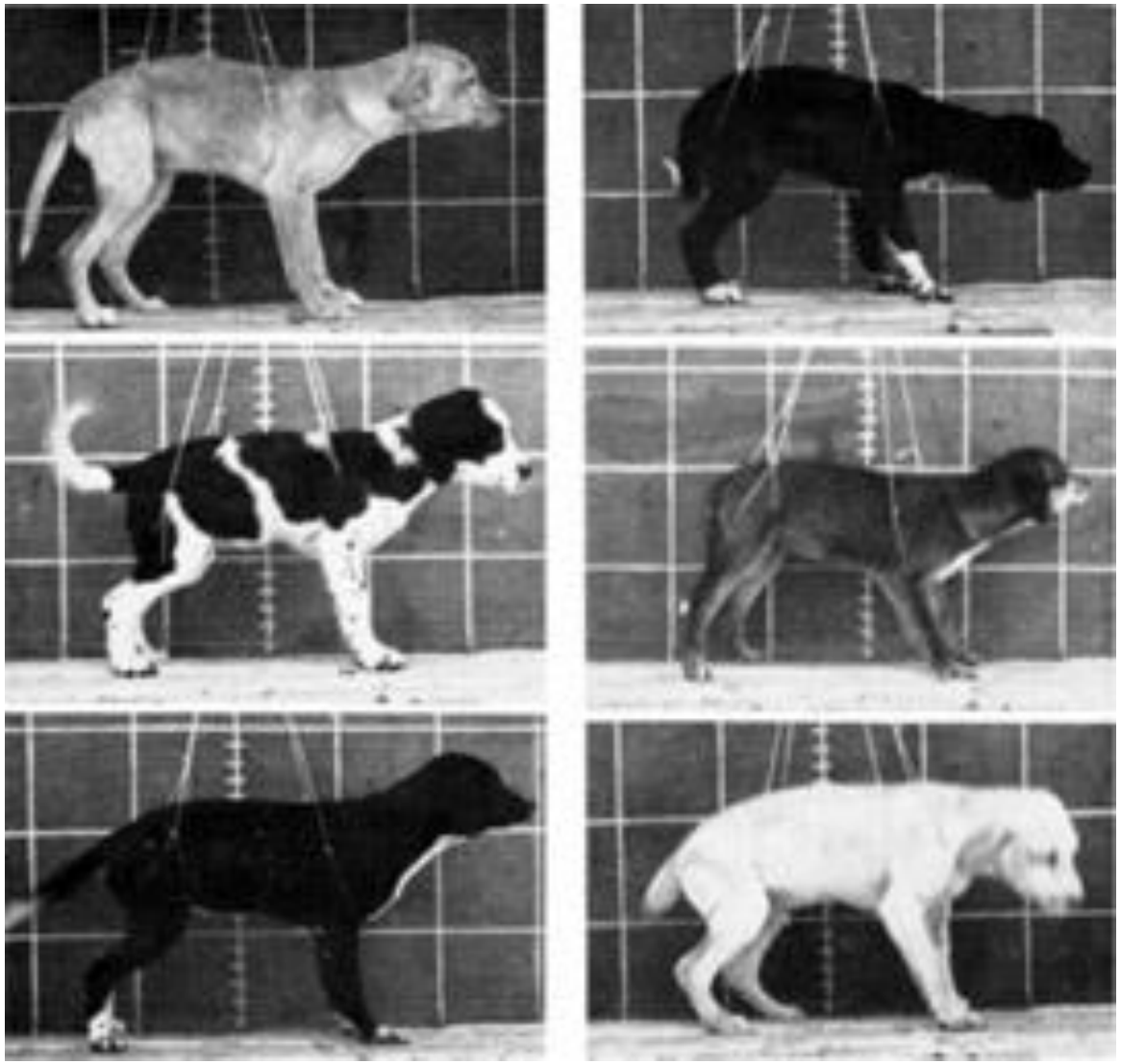
LOOKS DON'T EQUAL BEHAVIOR



John Paul Scott and John L. Fuller. *Genetics and the Social Behavior of the Dog.* 1965.

BCS F1 hybrids -- male and female pair





BSL: Unenforceable



50% American bulldog
25% American Staffordshire terrier
9.28% Pembroke Welsh corgi
7.97% Irish wolfhound



25% German shepherd
25% Staffordshire bull terrier
13.36% Weimaraner
7.29% German wirehaired pointer



25% rottweiler
12.5% boxer
12.5% German shorthaired pointer
11.09% Manchester terrier



25% American Staffordshire terrier
25% collie
21.41% black Russian terrier
19.86% Norwegian buhund



25% American Staffordshire terrier
25% Dogue de Bordeaux
3.66% Irish terrier
2.17% Dandie Dinmont terrier



25% American Staffordshire terrier
25% boxer
25% soft-coated wheaten terrier
18.66% Great Dane



50% Catahoula leopard dog
25% Siberian husky
9.94% briard
5.07 Airedale terrier



25% basset hound
25% American Staffordshire terrier
25% chow chow
25% English cocker spaniel



25% American Staffordshire terrier
25% Staffordshire bull terrier
8.83% flat-coated retriever
3.14% Irish wolfhound



25% boxer
25% Alaskan malamute
21.95% Sealyham terrier
19.67% pointer

Visual identification does not work

- Studies have found that even people in animal-related professions can’t accurately identify the breeds in a mixed-breed dog’s genealogy
- The same dog will often be labeled differently depending on the individual labeling him or her
- No jurisdiction has ever been able to eliminate a breed from its territory

Visual Identification













Visual Identification








Waste of resources

- Enforcement: inspection, seizure, sheltering, euthanasia, disposition
- Prince George's County, Maryland (population of approx. 1 million): too much pressure on animal management services: cost of approx. 500 000 USD per year (2003).
- Lawsuits

The solution: measures that apply to ALL



Repeal BSL

- Repeal BSL in Winnipeg
- Adopt breed-neutral legislation



“Pre-emption laws”

- **Arizona**
- **Californie**
- **Caroline du Sud**
- **Colorado**
- **Connecticut**
- **Dakota du sud**
- **Floride**
- **Illinois**
- **Maine**
- **Masachussets**
- **Minnesota**
- **Nevada**
- **New Jersey**
- **New York**
- **Pennsylvanie**
- **Oklahoma**
- **Rhode Island**
- **Texas**
- **Utah**
- **Virginie**

“Pre-emption laws”

NEVADA

Chapter 202. Crimes Against Public Health and Safety, Miscellaneous Crimes Concerning Public Safety.

202.500. Dangerous or vicious dogs: Unlawful acts; penalties.

6. A local authority shall not adopt or enforce an ordinance or regulation that deems a dog dangerous or vicious based solely on the breed of the dog

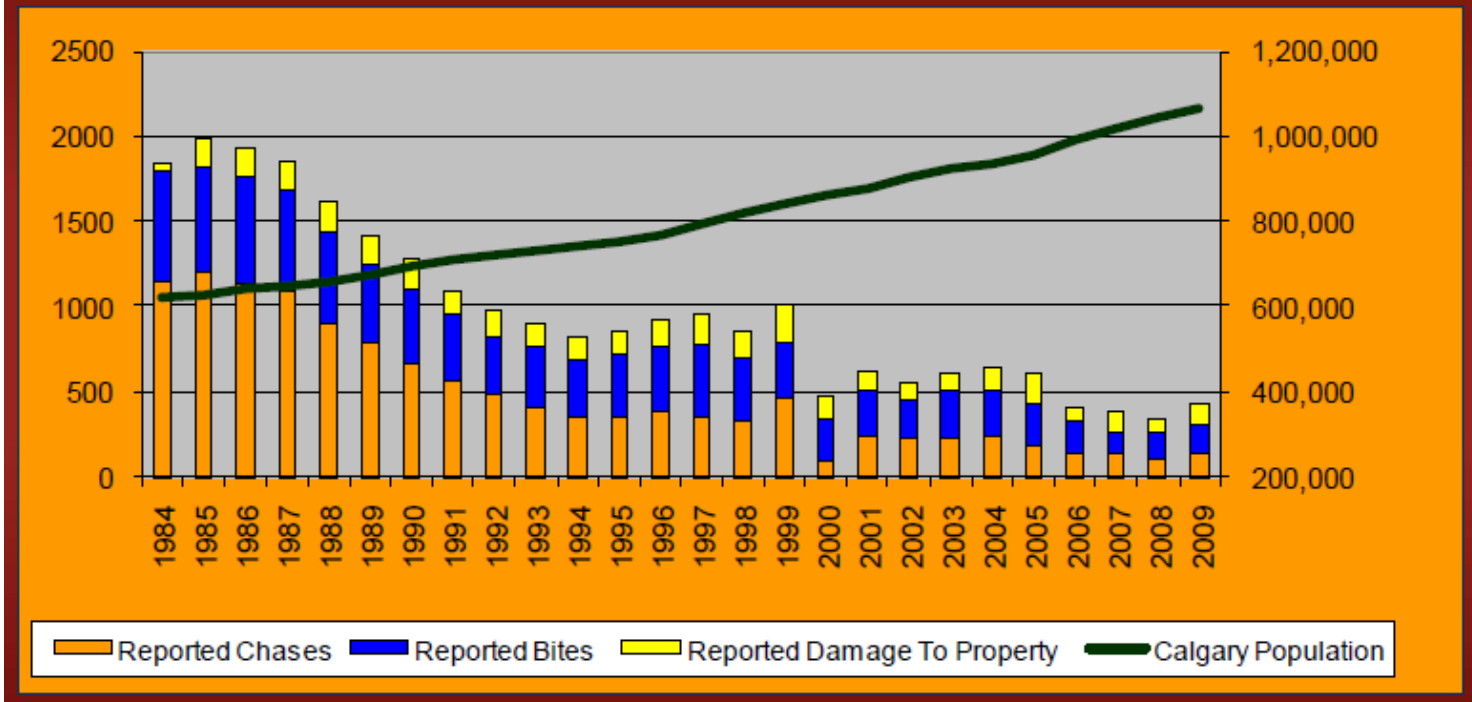
Solution: Dangerous Dog Definition

- Adopt a definition of “dangerous dog” or “potentially dangerous dog” based on behavior, not on breed or type
- Put in place interventions for DD or PDD (fines, behavioral evaluation, training, confinement, muzzles, sterilization, euthanasia, etc.)



Calgary

Aggressive Dog Incidents
1984-2009



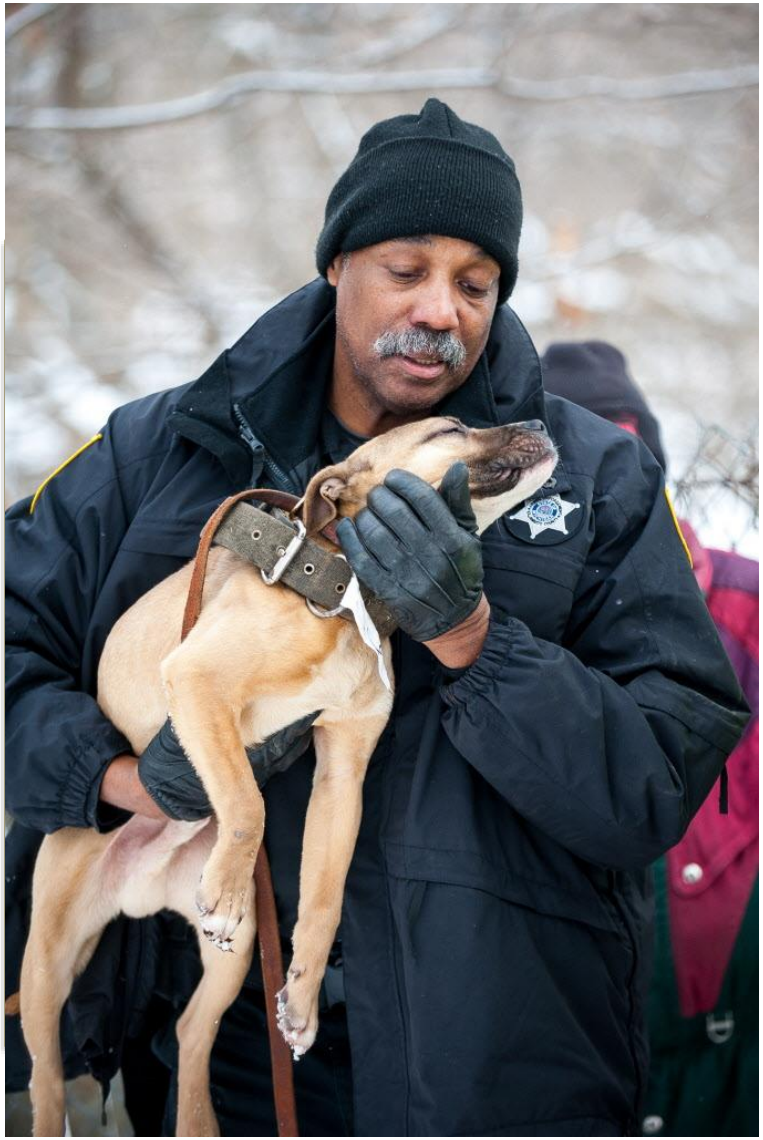
Solution: Basic Measures

- Leash/contention
- Identification/licences
- No permanent tethering



Solution: Rigorous Enforcement

- Enforcing leash laws
- Intervention for dog bites incidents
- Ex: Montreal



Solution: Community Approach

- «Responsible pet ownership» vs. « animal control »
- Gain trust from animal owners by enforcing by-laws fairly to all
- Offer services to animal owners: low-cost sterilization services, lost animals, adoption services, obedience classes



Solution: Other Measures

- Education and awareness campaigns
- Mandatory sterilization at source (breeders, pet shops, etc.)
- Legislating breeders





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