

Dear Honorable MI Judiciary Committee,

Please remove section 7 of SB 709 which outlaws breed specific ordinances. Jurisdictions should have the legal right to create public safety laws for their citizens. Cities and towns know best how to deal with animal control issues that arise in their own communities.

SB 709 Section 7: THE GOVERNING BODY OF A LOCAL UNIT OF GOVERNMENT MAY ENACT AN ORDINANCE OR CODE THAT RESTRICTS OR PLACES ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS ON THE OWNERS OF DOGS ----- PROVIDED THAT THE ORDINANCE OR CODE DOES NOT REGULATE A DOG BASED ON BREED, PERCEIVED BREED, OR TYPE. ----- It is this last portion that needs to be HIGHLIGHTED... and stricken. The rationale... why restrict localities from protecting their citizens from perceived vicious breeds?

The pit bull lobby which uses their own money to fabricate their own "research"...

PROOF that Animal Farm Foundation & The National Canine Research Council (NCRC) are not creditable sites.

Five Levels of the Pit Bull Lobby:

<http://blog.dogsbite.org/2016/10/montreal-pit-bull-ban-veterinary-report-pit-bull-lobby.html?m=1>

Level 1: The financing source. Animal Farm Foundation (AFF), owned by Jane Berkey. The company's motto is: "Securing equal treatment and opportunity for pit bull dogs." AFF devotes itself entirely to fighting pit bull regulations. "After inheriting a fortune from her father, Jane Berkey, who also owns a literary agency, turned over at least \$6 million to her group, \$2.85 million in 2013, according to government records. She pays 9 employees (one of whom, the director, makes more than \$100,000 a year) and finances numerous groups that share her philosophy," La Presse reports.

Level 2: The researchers. "To produce studies, AFF bought a private research body in 2007. The

acquisition was kept secret until the victims' group Dogsbite discovered this during litigation. The National Canine Research Council (NCRC) was created by a veterinary technician, Karen Delise. Neither an academic researcher nor a veterinarian, she self proclaims as the 'greatest national expert on deaths caused by dog bites,'" La Presse reports. NCRC co-authors and finances studies, like the ones cited by the OMVQ, which chiefly attempt to show pit bulls cannot be identified.

Level 3: Publication. Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association (JAVMA). "The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) publishes NCRC studies in its journal. On its own website it proposes sample letters [for readers to write] contesting any law aimed at pit bulls. Moreover, its site has a link to AFF," La Presse reports. The journalist even points out the AVMA's notice on the embargoed 2000 fatal dog attack study, which falsely and fraudulently states: "In contrast to what has been reported in the news media, the data contained within this report

CANNOT be used to infer any breed-specific risk for dog bite fatalities.”

Level 4: The political lobby. Best Friends Animal Society. Their senior legislative analyst, Ledy VanKavage, drafts state-level bills to eliminate local pit bull ordinances (state preemption laws) and is also a board member of AFF. VanKavage boasts on Best Friends’ corporate website that she commissioned an ex-economist from the tobacco industry, John Dunham, to create a fiscal calculator designed to advise governments on the cost of breed banning. Dunham’s sham BSL calculator, financed by the NCRC, over exaggerates these costs by nearly two orders of magnitude.

Level 5: The distributors. The animal care industry. “All the lobby studies are abundantly distributed by animal-based companies like shelters, breeders, trainers, etc. In Montreal, they are [distributed] by, amongst others, the SPCA, whose mission is to avoid euthanizing dogs and whose two most senior executives are themselves owners of pit bulls,” states La Presse. “On social

media, pit bull owners deploy these studies relentlessly and accuse all their opponents of ignorance,” La Presse reports. More aggressive ones have even threatened the mayor of Québec City with death.

I wanted you to be aware of the many myths that were created by the well-funded and well-organized pit bull lobby that you might hear from pit bull advocates.

1) Just because you would like the American Temperament Test Standard to be a temperament test for a balanced pet, it is not. It was developed by Alfons Ertelt in 1977 as a screening test for potential Schutzhund candidates - i.e., dogs that do bite work like police dogs. He was not an animal behaviorist, he was a schutzhund fan. He wanted a quick way to screen dogs to see if they were bold and aggressive enough to do police work. As much as you wish otherwise, it is not in any way an indicator of a safe pet. The test itself only takes 15 minutes and as a screening test, was designed only to weed out the most unlikely candidates for attack dog training. A dog that

panics when it hears a gunshot will fail this test. A dog that balks when asked to walk on wire fencing will fail this test. No part of this test looks at how the dog reacts in a home or with children or with other animals. These are things that are immediately obvious to anyone who takes even a cursory glance at the test. Why would you be attempting to prove pit bulls make great pets based on this

test? <http://thetruthaboutpitbulls.blogspot.com/2010/08/there-are-three-kinds-of-lies-lies.html?m=1>

2) Pit bulls can't be identified. The term pit bull is used as a generic term used to describe dogs with similar physical characteristics. A "pit bull" is one of several breeds that have the same shared bloodline including the American Pit Bull Terrier, Staffordshire Bull Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier, Bull Terrier, American Bully or any mix. Just like there are 12 types of spaniel breeds or 6 types of retriever breeds with shared bloodlines.

For 25-years appellate courts have ruled that a dog owner of ordinary intelligence can identify a pit bull (See: Ohio v. Anderson, 1991). In addition to

this, the high courts have ruled that scientific precision is not required when determining the breed (See: Colorado Dog Fanciers v. Denver, 1991). Yet still the myth persists pushed by the pit bull lobby, pit bull advocates, animal groups and more -- that it is impossible to identify a pit bull.

<http://blog.dogsbite.org/2015/08/who-can-identify-pit-bull-dog-owner-of-ordinary-intelligence.html>

A 2013 ASPCA double-blind study revealed that shelter workers were able to correctly identify dogs with significant 'pit bull' blood ('pit bull' = the 3 breeds above) 96% of the time, as confirmed by DNA tests.

<http://www.aspcapro.org/blog/2013/09/25/bully-this%E2%80%9494-results-are-in%E2%80%A6>

3) None of these organizations track fatalities by dog breeds: the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), HSUS, ASPCA, Best Friends Animal Society and the American Kennel Club (AKC), amongst many others.

In fact, no organization except those making money off pit bulls supports pit bulls. Those organizations have a vested financial interest in pit bulls. Those with a "product on the shelf" to move. Those who make money selling pit bulls or make a living not only treating pit bulls but also from repairing the poor animals they attack. Those whose income could be affected by their views on pit bulls.

4) Many pit-bull advocates still claim pit bulls were nanny dogs in the 1800s. There are no primary sources that support pit bulls were nanny dogs. This myth was started by a pit bull breeder to soften the image of the breed and as an advertising gimmick in the 1970's to sell more pit bulls. There are zero primary sources. A major pit bull advocacy group publicly announced that it will no longer support the Nanny Dog myth because it endangers children. While it is too late for many children, hopefully many will be saved in the future.

<http://thetruthaboutpitbulls.blogspot.com/2010/08/nanny-dog-myth-revealed.html>

216 children killed by pit bull type dogs.

<https://www.fatalpitbullattacks.com/children-killed-by-pit-bulls.php>

Please put public safety first and please, do not stop local municipalities from enacting their own safety measures.

Thank you for your attention to this serious matter.

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Oakland County Precinct Delegate, 8th District

No Place Like Home Rescue of Michigan,  
President

Supporter of National Pit Bull Victim Awareness  
[Dogsbite.org](http://Dogsbite.org)  
[Daxtonsfriends.com](http://Daxtonsfriends.com)