

# Breed Bans Do Not Work: Demand Effective Dangerous Dog Legislation

In late August 2004, just a few days before a 'pit bull' attack made headline news across Ontario, a young child was attacked in London, Ontario by a popular "family-type" dog and required over 140 stitches to their head and face. The dog involved in the attack was not on the media's 'hit list' of dog breeds, so this particular attack - and many others like it - was never reported by the media.

Is the public being misled about the dangers of certain dog breeds? We must look to experts for reliable guidance.

All experts on this topic agree: Breed-specific bans are stop-gap measures that do not address the real problem which is irresponsible ownership. We must collect relevant information on all dog bites in Canada, and we must make people accountable for their dogs through heavy fines and/or jail time.



## In 1999 an inquiry outlined 36 steps that would help reduce dog-related fatalities. To date none have been implemented.

"The whole idea of banning certain breeds is just ridiculous."  
- Dr. Tim Zaharchuk, President, The Ontario Veterinary Medical Association

"Breed bans are a reactionary measure. They should not be used as a quick fix."  
- Emile Therien, The Canadian Safety Council

"Dangerous dogs can exist in every breed and cross-breed. In fact, any dog can be raised to be aggressive."  
- Susan Lavictoire, The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association

**Breed-specific bans are a short-term solution.** The problems will continue because bad owners will merely switch to a tougher breed that could prove to be a danger in all but the most experienced and responsible hands.

**Breed bans overlook dangerous dogs from other breeds.** This can create a false sense of security when people are interacting with other breeds.

**Breed-specific bans punish responsible owners and model canine citizens.** Breed bans don't work and they are a very harsh punishment for responsible owners.

## 'Pit Bull' heroes demonstrate their true nature

### Pit bull saves life of owner actor Ken Howard

Tony- and Emmy-winning actor Ken Howard's life was saved by his American Pit Bull Terrier (APBT) Shadow. While waiting for a kidney transplant, Howard collapsed in his second floor bathroom. Had his dog, outside with his wife at the time, not alerted Mr. Howard's wife to his collapse the actor may have bled to death.

### Twice the Hero: Weela's Story

One day eleven-year-old Gary Watkins was absorbed in play outside when the family's American Pit Bull Terrier - Weela - ran across the yard and knocked the boy over. The mother, who saw the whole incident, says she remembers being surprised because Weela always played kindly with children. Mrs. Watkin's surprise turned to horror when - just moments later - a rattlesnake sank its fangs into Weela's face.

Weela came to the Walkins home from an alley where the Walkins found her with her littermates. The pups, which were not even four weeks old, had been left there to die.

Weela would later go on to save 30 people, 29 dogs, 13 horses and a cat after heavy rains caused a dam break on the Tijuana River. Weela was Ken-L Ration's Dog Hero of the Year (1993).

**Petey from the Little Rascals TV show was an APBT**

### Take action now!

Email Michael Bryant and tell him that you oppose breed specific bans.  
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