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Breed Read

When is a pit bull not a pit bull? That's the riddle being pondered in Cambridge, after news that a highly publicized dog attack on a newspaper

boy and his mother earlier this month may not have been what it seemed at all.

Twelve-year-old Ricardo Ramirez was on his route, when a dog identified as an American Staffordshire Terrier [ran out the front door and badly mauled him](#). Attorney General Michael Bryant immediately seized on the incident to drive home the need for an all out ban on the breed in Ontario.

But it now appears the dog, named Lyric, wasn't a pit bull or an American Staffordshire Terrier after all. "It is a mutt," confirms Bonnie Beekon of the Cambridge Humane Society. "I suspect, between 3 and 5 different crossbreeds of something."

The animal was sold through a newspaper as an American Staffordshire Terrier but it was never microchipped or tattooed. After the attack, the Humane Society determined it was actually a mix of a Whippet, Great Dane and even some Dalmation.

Breeder Tracy Dineley claims it's ample evidence of why Bryant's much vaunted breed specific legislation doesn't have a dog's leg to stand on.

"It really upsets us when we find out that they say this is what this is, and it is not. And it doesn't look anything like our breed," she complains.

"There's always going to be another breed that bites. If you condemn the breeds and the purebred dogs, that doesn't save you from crossbred dogs that bite ... It doesn't save you from the Heinz 57 mutts that are supposedly the best dogs in the world and they go and bite somebody."

Bryant's legislation calls for all pit bulls in the province to be spayed or neutered and muzzled when they're in public. Owners will be able to keep their pets for the rest of their lives, but won't be able to get a new one.

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May 4
York Region Res
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- Lyric is expected to be euthanized on Monday. Meanwhile, pit bull owners aren't letting the issue die. They're planning several rallies provincewide on Sunday to try to nip Bryant's bill in the bud.

May 4
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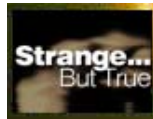
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Suicide Bomber
In Iraq

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StreetBeat



Who is Canada's
Minister?

(Contest open b
6am)

One winner will receiv
One-Price Passports to
Wonderland."



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