

# What is BSL?

## What you need to know about BSL!

Your city or county is considering passing Breed Specific Legislation (BSL). These types of laws should NOT be supported by any responsible dog owners! There is no breed of dog that is inherently dangerous and that has been proven in a court of law. It is irresponsible dog owners who cause dog attacks and those are the people who MUST be held responsible NOT innocent dogs. For those of you reading this poster and feeling that it doesn't effect you because you don't own one of the pit bull breeds, think again! Throughout the United States there are BSL laws against several breeds of dog German Shepard, Presa Canario, St. Bernard, Akita, Doberman, etc. Your breed could be next! Don't think so? Well consider Italy who passed BSL against 92 breeds of dog including the Corgi and Border Collie. Nassau has passed BSL against many large breed dogs. It happens and it can happen to you. So what will happen when the neighbors Labrador bites a child?

### Some BSL Facts:

- ◆ Every major canine organization in the US and Canada are against BSL type laws. They believe in a Punish the deed NOT the breed approach holding owners responsible. Some of the organizations: AKC, UKC American Veterinary Medical Association, National Animal Control Association, ASPCA, etc.
- ◆ BSL is costly to a community. In Prince Georges County, MD they estimated it cost them \$560,000.00 over a 2 year period. Baltimore, MD estimated it cost them \$750,000.00 per year to have BSL. Prince Georges County also noted there were additional revenue losses, the number of canine shows and exhibits dramatically dropped once BSL was passed. These losses were passed onto the community because of less travelers which effects hotels, restaurants, gas stations, veterinary care, etc.
- ◆ BSL has been ruled as unconstitutional by the Ohio Supreme Court and a Westbury, NY Court. BSL Laws have been ruled against by several courts of law throughout the US including, Alabama Supreme Court, NY Supreme Court, MA Supreme Court just to name a few.
- ◆ All dogs are capable of biting and inflicting fatal wounds. In 2002 a Pomeranian fatally mauled an infant. According to Karen Delise the dog most involved in fatal attacks is an unaltered male, followed by an unaltered female.

BSL laws do not make a community safer as they don't address the root cause of the problem and that's the irresponsible dog owners. Effective laws need to be drafted that protect responsible dog owners rights and hold irresponsible owners accountable for their animals actions.