

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Why is Montreal banning breeds that rare?

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The proposal to ban three breeds of dogs in the City of Montreal's 19 boroughs is disturbing. There is no evidence to support the belief that there are dangerous breeds. There is evidence showing that individual dogs, often owned by inexperienced or callous people, can be dangerous.

Unfortunately, dog bite statistics aren't statistics, and any collection of dog bites by breed is inaccurate because it is based on guesswork. Breed is a term with a specific meaning that is used incorrectly by many people, even among those who are involved with dogs. A dog is a member of a breed if he can trace his ancestry back to when his breed was recognized in an unbroken line through a pedigree. Any other dog is a mongrel. In Canada, all three of the breeds usually named in these types of laws are so uncommon that most people will never see a purebred example of any of them.

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
American Staffordshire Terrier												
QUEBEC	1	0	0	1	3	0	4	0	5	0	0	0
CANADA	33	45	20	14	22	21	46	32	34	58	37	21
Staffordshire Bull Terrier												
QUEBEC	8	3	2	6	6	3	4	7	6	2	5	8
CANADA	243	104	105	104	151	130	148	129	113	140	112	96

Above is a document showing number of dogs registered by the Canadian Kennel Club (CKC) for all of Canada and Quebec separately during the past ten years. The CKC is a federally accredited agency that registers purebred dogs under the Animal Pedigree Act. The American Pit Bull Terrier is registered with United Kennel Club (UKC) and American Dog Breeders' Association (ADBA), as well as the Canadian Livestock Records Corporation, another federal agency under the auspices of Agriculture Canada.

The government should be responsible and proactive with an approach similar to Calgary's Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw. Being one of the most respected bylaws, it teaches people what is expected of them and rewards owners for good behaviour. Those who do not meet the community standards are dealt with regardless of the type, breed or size of pet.

A full risk assessment should be conducted by the city of Montreal to assess the danger of fatality and bites from the proposed rare banned breeds and types of dogs.

Bans and other unfair laws are ineffective and costly plus they lead to distrust of government officials, especially at the municipal level.

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