

Regionally, our County BSL is seen as regressive.

- In 2010, then-county executive candidate Rushern Baker, III, agreed that the county breed ban was costly, unfair, and should be repealed.
- The city of Frederick, Maryland, issued a press release on May 3, 2012 stating it “**will not profile pit bulls** into extinction”.
- Fairfax Animal Shelter recently “saved” 6 banned dogs. If the dogs are not dangerous there, they are certainly not dangerous here. No need to take them in the first place.



- Town of North Beach, Maryland, **repealed** its longstanding breed ban in June 2012, citing difficulty in determining breed.
- Hagerstown **rejected** breed specific law (BSL) in 2012.
- Neighboring states PA, VA, NJ, and NY are among 18 states that prohibit breed bans.
- We all expect to be safe in our communities. Fair, effective, **behavior-based** laws citing the best scientific evidence available provide that safety.
- Animal, health and legal experts from the Centers for Disease Control, American Bar Association, Maryland Bar Association, Maryland Veterinary Medical Association, American Veterinary Medical Association, American Kennel Club, the Maryland Dog Federation, various local and national animal control organizations advocate for safe communities via behavior-based, **non breed-specific** animal control laws.
- The White House opposes BSL DOJ rejects it.
- Howard County is enjoying the \$1.5 million every year in business brought to their county by the large scale dog shows that left Prince George's because of the ban.

Bans: reliably unsuccessful

- The breed ban does not improve public safety.
- Many reasons given for the ban in 1996 have been refuted:
 - We already had good, behavior-based laws in place in 1996 before the ban; they were just not being adequately enforced.
 - Myths and misinformation played a role when the law was passed:
 - “targeted” breeds do not have double jointed jaws or biting strength unusual for their size.
 - Not just owned by bad guys or reckless owners, their popularity spans socio-economic demographics and smashes owner stereotypes...we're doctors, families, government employees, teachers, nurses, attorneys, plumbers, truck drivers and senior citizens! Why? Because they're good dogs!
 - It's been estimated that the dogs are among the top ten most popular in 48 states (and the fourth most popular dog in Maryland).
 - Studies show the breed doesn't have increased propensity for severe bites.
- Nearly two decades after the ban started, county data do not indicate a significant drop in the population of the targeted breeds.

“The hardest thing we have to do...is go to someone's house, knock on their door, see their American Pit Bull Terrier laying in the living room watching television with the kids and the family...and tak[e] that dog away. A dog that has done nothing wrong, caused no problems, but just because of his breed he has to be removed.”

-- Rodney Taylor, Director, Prince George's Animal Management

- Of approximately 154,400 dogs living in the county in 2011, 153,730 (99.6%) of them injured no one.
- Of some 700 bites and scratches each year, ~90% caused by non-banned breeds. +/-90% of all dog-related incidents are NOT severe.
- Dog incident data from Prince George's and across the country indicate it's adequately enforced breed-neutral dangerous dog laws reduce dog-related injuries, **not BSL**.
- The percentage of dog-related incidents attributed to targeted breeds has not changed significantly over the period of the ban.
- As predicted, the county has seen increased bites by “replacement” breeds,