



Sometimes, even when we are defending our dogs, we don't realize what we're saying, or how others interpret what we're saying. Let's take back the conversation about our family dogs. Here are a few "better things to say"

If you're thinking of saying this:	Consider saying something like this instead:
<b>&lt;insert breed here&gt; bite more than pit bulls</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The number of reported incidents generally relates to the popularity of the type of dog.</li> <li>• Breed is not a relevant factor.</li> <li>• There are about 156,000 dogs in Prince George's County. About 99.6% don't bite anybody.</li> </ul>
<b>It's not the dog, it's the owner</b>	Seems that every neighborhood has "that guy" or "that lady" who lets the dog out all the time to get into mischief. Don't let them ruin the peace and quiet of the neighborhood. They can own any type of dog; it's not breed that makes it dangerous or a nuisance. No breed ban needed; enforce generic laws
<b>When a pit bull bites, it's more likely to be severe. (← not supported by facts)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Few pit bulls bite, if they do, 90% are not severe (similar trend in many other places too)</li> </ul>
<b>We need this law because of irresponsible owners</b>  ~or~	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We need breed –neutral animal control laws because of a few bad neighbors – not BSL</li> <li>• The vast majority of dogs and their owners are good, cooperative neighbors. Who care for their family dogs.</li> <li>• Every community has "that neighbor", who tramples the peace and quiet. The one who ignores her dog barking in the yard after midnight when no one else can, who allows her dog to run the neighborhood terrorizing people. The non attentive neighbor who allows his dog to run in other people's yards, allows his dog to misbehave to the point of nuisance or danger. Yes, there's a jerk in almost every neighborhood. If a dog is involved, there is a breed-neutral law for that.</li> </ul>
<b>I'm afraid to walk in my neighborhood</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It's not the breed of dog that makes it a nuisance or dangerous. It's the owner who allows the dog to infringe on the peace and quiet of his neighbors. And as the data indicates, many different types of dogs can cause harm. A breed ban doesn't solve that; AMD's <u>enforcement</u> of breed neutral laws solves that.</li> </ul>
<b>The breed ban makes people feel more comfortable</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enforcing the dangerous dog laws and dogs-at-large laws regardless of breed makes people feel more comfortable.</li> </ul>
<b>Pit bull bites in the county have gone down dramatically (← statement incompatible with data)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A downward trend is evident in <i>all</i> reported bites in PG county, not just in "pit bulls".</li> <li>• Pit bull bites may very well be going down...bites are</li> </ul>

declining overall. German Shepherds are not banned, yet bites have declined in exactly the same way pit bull bite have - no ban needed.

- Dogs are now just called something else - American Bulldog mix, Cane Corso mix, Dogo Argentino mix, Dalmatian mix, Pointer mix, Presa Canario mix, lab mix, Boxer mix, etc. What *looks* like declining numbers are just dogs called something else

**Many jurisdictions have breed bans**

- A small percentage of Americans are actually affected by breed bans. 18 states have laws prohibiting them. More municipalities are rejecting or repealing BSL all the time.

**If you have a banned dog the dog is illegal; you shouldn't have it**

- People move to PG County all the time. Most affordable county in the DC metro area. You are asking people to choose between a place to live and giving up a family member for a law that makes no sense.
- People choose to keep their dog, to hide their dog, because they love their dog. And they know their dog is not dangerous
- Heard the ban was repealed/isn't enforced/doesn't apply to mixes/I could just get my dog's breed changed to American Bulldog mix"
- Some dogs taken from Prince George's families because the law says they are dangerous are given to rescues and shelters to be adopted outside the county.
- If they are good enough to be pets outside the county, why are they being taken from us? Right from our living rooms and away from children who love them

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