

# Animal Behaviour Consultants

K. Vinson, B.A., Certs. in Canine Behaviour Problems

---

February 18, 2019

## **RE: BSL Statement**

As per your request for me to render an expert opinion on the efficacy of the current Breed Specific Legislation in effect in Ontario, I am providing this below. Before stating this opinion, I would like to clarify two important factors:

Firstly, I am not a member of any advocacy group supporting any of the banned breeds under BSL. My sole interest in providing this objective opinion is to support effective dog laws that keep the public safe from dogs whose behaviour has become dangerous.

Secondly, I am qualified to provide an expert opinion on this topic due to the credibility I have in the area of canine behaviour, e.g. since 1999 I have been recognized as an Expert in Canine Aggression on numerous occasions by the Ontario Coroner's Court, and both the Ontario Provincial and Superior Courts. In addition to testifying in the 1999 Trempe Inquest as an Expert Witness, I also testified as a recognized Expert in the 2006 Court Challenge to the Ontario government's Breed Specific Legislation. My CV used for Expert designation in the abovementioned court cases is available on request.

Therefore, I would like to unequivocally state that Ontario BSL has been an ineffective tool when it comes to protecting the public from the problem of dog bites, as evidenced by statistics which show that since its 2005 inception, the number of reported dog bites in the province has remained fairly constant. Furthermore, **there is no research-based scientific evidence to indicate that the breeds banned under the legislation are any more dangerous to the public than any other breed of similarly sized dog.**

In fact, over the last several decades that statistics have been kept Canada wide, there have been approximately 40 dog bite fatalities, of which only **one** has been attributed to a member of the breeds banned under Ontario BSL. The truth is that any large dog that is not bred, trained, and handled responsibly can become dangerously aggressive. Therefore, the focus of effective dog bite legislation should be aimed at responsible breeding, ownership and training, as opposed to banning any specific breed(s).

Kerry Vinson  
Animal Behaviour Consultants