



Breed Specific Legislation

Advisory Board of Health &
Animal Welfare Committee

★A GREAT AMERICAN STORY★

Joint Subcommittee Formed

- May 2019: Request made to two groups
- August 2019: Advisory Board of Health and Animal Welfare Committee formed joint subcommittee
 - Jason White, Dr. Matthew Wingert, Dr. Terry Morris, Tim Watkins, Cindy Marshall
- Subcommittee met
 - September 2019
 - October 2019
 - November 2019

Review of Data

- Medical/scientific literature
- History of the issue in Independence and the region
- ASPCA report to the group
- City case data
- National organization position papers
- Dangerous dog ordinance standards

Public Hearing - November 2019

- To gauge current community opinion on the issue
- Good turnout – overflow into hallway
- 39 speakers
 - 32 were opposed to current BSL
 - Proponents of keeping the ordinance shared personal experiences

Regional BSL

- Independence is one of a few municipalities with BSL still in place
- Others include:
 - Excelsior Springs
 - Gladstone
 - Kearney
 - Platte City

Organizations Opposing BSL

ASPCA

Humane Society

American
Veterinary Medical
Association

American Kennel
Club

American Bar
Association

National Animal
Control
Association

International
Municipal Lawyers
Association

American
Veterinary Society
of Animal Behavior



Organizations Supporting BSL

National Pit
Bull Victim
Awareness

DogsBite.org



Recommendation: Repeal BSL

- Breed determination is difficult
- False sense of security for community
- Wide variety of animals bite
- Pit bulls remain in the city despite ordinance
- Enforcement pits neighbors against each other
- Focus should be on dangerous dog ordinance

Dangerous Dog Ordinance

- Modifications to the aggressive/dangerous/vicious dog ordinance for consideration:
 - Fines and insurance should adjust with inflation
 - Permit aggressive dogs
 - Limit the number allowed to be owned
 - Require notification to neighbors
 - Require reporting if it becomes unrestrained
 - Education to citizens on the law
 - Require owner to attend training

Questions?