

# **Sensible solutions for dangerous dogs.**

## **11. International case studies.**

**Various models of BSL have been tried in many countries of the world, including.**

Austria, Denmark, Germany, France, Ireland, Italy, Malta, the Netherlands, Spain, the United Kingdom and Switzerland (de Meeter 2004), as well as in various states in the United States of America and Canada.

### United Kingdom.

BSL was introduced in the UK in 1991.

After two years, a study conducted at the Aberdeen Royal Infirmary showed that there had been no reduction in the incidence of dog bites (Klaassen et al 1996), and the estimated cost to the UK government of determining whether an individual animal belonged to a specified breed was in the order of US\$14 million (Anon 1996). The UK Dangerous Dog Act is now widely considered a failure (Grant 2008).

### Spain.

Introduced BSL in 1999, applying it to APBT Bulldogs, Staffordshire Terriers, American Staffordshire Terriers, Rottweilers, Argentine Dogo, Brazilian Fila, Tosa Inu and Akita Inu breeds.

No impact on dog bite data collected before and after the introduction of the legislation was found (Rosado et al 2007).

However, Villalbi et al (2012) has reported a decline in hospitalizations due to dog bites associated with the introduction of the regulations.

The regulations included various measures to enhance responsible dog ownership as well as breed-specific legislation.

### Germany.

Lower Saxony (Germany) instituted BSL in 2000, however this was subsequently withdrawn (September 2002)

When government-mandated temperament assessment tests showed that there was no scientific basis for increased aggressiveness in the specified breeds (Schalke et al 2008, Ott et

al 2008).

### Netherlands.

The Netherlands abolished BSL in June 2008 after carefully assessing the validity of the legislation and its impact (Cornelissen 2010).

The legislation had been introduced in 1993.

### Italy.

In September 2003, Italy placed into effect laws that banned or restricted 92 breeds including not just controversial breeds such as the Rottweiler and APBT Bulldog but breeds such as the Corgi and Border collie.

Italy later dropped the 'deemed dangerous' list to 17 breeds, and in April 2009, removed the restrictions altogether.

### USA.

Each county adopts its own animal control ordinances.

Because of the situation regarding BSL in the USA.

A list of USA states, counties (and countries internationally) and their ordinances are listed at

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Breedspecific\\_legislation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Breedspecific_legislation).

A list of US and Canadian counties that have repealed or voted against breed-specific legislation.

### **The alternative to BSL.**

Because dogs with particular physical characteristics automatically treated as a dangerous dog under BSL.

The legislation specifies that a dog with particular physical characteristics can be automatically treated as a dangerous dog. However, there's no way to reliably determine the breed of a dog by sight or by DNA - in the case of APBT Bulldogs.

**This has led to owners appealing decisions and dogs being impounded for extended periods, creating, or exacerbating behavior problems and compromising the welfare of the dog.**

The AVA's alternative to BSL is a comprehensive strategy to address the multiple complex causes of dog bites.

The model legislative framework sets out sound principles for

regulating dangerous dogs as well as describing a system to identify and control potentially dangerous dogs.

**At the same time.**

A complete system of measures to support socially responsible dog ownership is essential to achieve a real reduction in dog bite incidents.

1. Identification and registration of all dogs.
2. A national reporting system with mandatory reporting of all dog bite incidents to the national database.
3. Temperament testing to understand the risks and needs of individual animals, to help owners make more appropriate choices for their new dogs, and to guide breeders to improve the temperament of puppies.
4. Comprehensive education programs for pet owners, dog breeders, all parents, and all children.
4. Enforcement of all dog management regulations.

Resourcing is often a major barrier to effective enforcement, and this problem needs to be addressed effectively to achieve tangible reductions in dog bite incidents.

**That's it – Gawie Manjaro – MK.**

