

Sensible solutions for dangerous dogs.

7. DNA breed identification methods for breed-specific legislation has depended on identification of those breeds for which restrictions are to be imposed.

However positive identification of breeds can be extremely problematic.

Breed templates have been developed by state jurisdictions and breed assessment committees (in Victoria) or assessors (in NSW) have also been used.

Under the Victorian legislation, defense against an identification that a dog belongs to a restricted breed is dependent on certification by an affiliate of the Australian National Kennel Council, opinion from a certifying authority, or a veterinary certificate.

Veterinarians have been reluctant to certify that an animal is a member of a certain breed.

This is understandable as breed assessment by observation has been shown to be flawed – not all perceived “Pitbull’s” are APBT Bulldogs.

In one study, 20 mixed breed dogs were identified as containing certain breeds (e.g. Chow Chow) or types (e.g. terrier).

DNA was collected and submitted for analysis to the Mars Veterinary Wisdom Panel MX TM.

87.5% of the dogs did not contain DNA of the breeds or types identified, based on presence or absence of single nucleotide polymorphisms (Voith et al 2009).

DNA has now been used successfully to establish that dogs seized by councils are predominantly breeds other than restricted breeds (Chivers 2010).

In considering the current high-profile breed, it is still **impossible** to establish whether a dog is an APBT Bulldog.

There are currently two DNA tests available in Australia.

The first (BITSa by Gene Technologies <http://www.gtglabs.com/bitsa>) does not include APBT Bulldogs in its range of breeds, so it cannot prove that a dog is a APBT Bulldog at all.

It does include American Staffordshire terriers.

It does not include APBT Bulldogs because this breed is banned from importation into Australia (and restricted in a number of states) and not recognized as a breed by any breed registering

society, so there is not a pool of “confirmed pure bred APBT Bulldogs” to use to establish a common DNA profile.

Some have claimed that, because APBT Bulldogs could not be legally imported, Australian APBT Bulldogs are just a mix of other breeds bred to produce a “Pit Bull type” dog (Chivers 2010).

That’s it – Gawie Manjaro – MK.

