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Generation -profiling- stereotyping the APBT Bulldog.

Doing this is irresponsible – come on!

Derived from; http://www.gladwell.com/2006/2006_02_06_a_pitbull.html

Ruff stuff but the truth.

Guy Clairoux picked up his two-and-a half-year-old son, Jayden, from daycare and walked him back to their house.
They were almost home.
Jayden was struggling behind, and, as his father's back was turned, a "pitbull" jumped over a back-yard fence along the way and lunged at Jayden.
"The dog had his head in its mouth and started to do this shake," Clairoux's wife, JoAnn Hartley, said later.
As she watched in horror, two more "pit bulls" (it was later found these were two pit bull /mastiff puppies, Agua and Akasha – a mix breed) jumped over the fence, joining in the assault.
She and Clairoux came running, and he punched the first of the dogs in the head, until it dropped Jayden, and then he threw the boy toward his mother.
Hartley fell on her son, protecting him with her body.
"JoAnn!" Clairoux cried out, as all three dogs descended on his wife.
"Coveryour neck, cover your neck."
A neighbor, sitting by her window, screamed for help.
Her partner and a friend, Mario Gauthier, ran outside.
A neighborhood boy grabbed his hockey stick and threw it to Gauthier.
He began hitting one of the dogs over the head, until the stick broke.
"The dogs wouldn't stop," Gauthier said.
"As soon as you stop, they'll attack again.
I've never seen a dog go so crazy.
They were like Tasmanian devils."

The police came.
The dogs were pulled away, and the Clairouxes and one of the rescuers were taken to the hospital.
Five days later, the Ontario legislature banned the ownership of APBT Bulldog’s because of this terrible incident.
"Just as we wouldn't let a great white shark in a swimming pool with bathers" the province's attorney general, Michael Bryant, had said, "Maybe we shouldn't have these “pit-bull” animals on the civilized streets.
"She said that APBT Bulldogs, descendants of the “Old English Bulldogs” used in the nineteenth century for bull, bear, wild pig, baiting and dog fighting, have been bred for high prey drive and "gameness," and thus a lowered inhibition to aggression.
Most dogs fight, as a last resort, when staring and growling fail.
The APBT Bulldog is willing to fight with little or no provocation.
APBT Bulldog’s “seemed” to have a high tolerance for pain, making it possiblefor them to fight to the point of exhaustion.
Whereas taught guard dogs like German shepherds usually attempt to restrain.
Those they perceive to be threats by biting and holding the APBT Bulldog’sdo inflict the maximum amount of damage on an opponent (as any dog in a dog fight will do).
They bite, hold, shake, and tear.
They don't growl or do not assume an aggressive facial expression as warning, except lifting of their ears and tail.
Then they just engage in the fight at hand.

One Scientific review of this breed.
"They are often insensitive to behaviours that usually stop aggression, for example, dogs not bred for fighting (non-game dogs) usually display defeat and submit over the other dominant dog in combat by rolling over and exposing their light underside or run away.
On several occasions APBT Bulldogs have been reported to disembowel dogs offering this signal of submission."
In epidemiological studies of dog bites, the APBT Bulldog is overrepresented among dogs known to have seriously injured or killed human beings, and, as a result, APBT Bulldog’s have been banned or restricted in several Western European countries, China, and numerous cities and municipalities across North America.
Dogs should safely be always contained in owners’ yards – not to be in the streets.

All APBT Bulldogs are now proclaimed to be dangerous.
Of course, not all APBT Bulldog's are dangerous, don't bite anyone.
Good & responsible and accountable stewards of this breed selectively breed, socialize, and keep well socialized dogs and these dogs don't run in the streets.
Likewise, Dobermans Great Danes, Boer Bulls, German shepherds, Rottweiler's and mixed breed dogs attract type dogs are frequent biters as well (especially loose running dogs or those that easily jump over a fence into the street), as the dog that recently mauled a Frenchwoman so badly that she was given the world's first face transplant was later foundto be of all things, a Labrador retriever.

When we say that APBT Bulldog's – or as called "pit-bulls" are dangerous, we are making a generalization, just as insurance companies use generalizations when they charge young men more for car insurance than the rest of us (even though many young men are perfectly good drivers), and doctors use generalizations when they tell overweight middle-aged men to get their cholesterol checked (even though many overweight middle-aged men won't experience heart trouble).

Because we don't know which dog will bite -who will have a heart attack or which drivers will get in an accident, we can make predictions only by generalizing.

As the legal scholar "Frederick Schauer" has observed.
"Painting with a broad brush" is "an often inevitable and frequently desirable dimension of our decision-making lives today."

Another word for generalization, though, is "stereotype," and stereotypes are usually not considered desirable dimensions of our decision-making lives.
The process of moving from the specific to the general is both necessary and perilous.
A doctor could, with some statistical support, generalize about men of a certain age and weight.
But what if generalizing from other traits—such as high blood pressure, family history, and smoking—saved more lives?
Behind each generalization is a choice of what factors to leave in and what factors to leave out, and those choices can prove surprisingly complicated.
After the attack on Jayden Clairoux, the Ontario government chose to makea generalization about APBT Bulldog's – notwithstanding of the facts that in this incident -it was later found the guilty dogs to be a mix breed

mutt.
But it could also have chosen to generalize about powerful dogs, or about the kinds of people who own powerful dogs, or about small children, or about low high back-yard fences was—or, indeed, about any number of other things to do with dogs and people and places.

How do we know when we've made the right generalization?

Following the transit bombings in London, the New York City Police Department announced that it would send officers into the subways to conduct random searches of passengers' bags.
On the face of it, doing random searches in the hunt for terrorists—as opposed to being guided by generalizations—seems like a silly idea.

As a columnist in New York wrote at the time.

"Not just 'most' but nearly every jihadi who has attacked a Western European or American target is a young Arab or Pakistani man.
In other words, you can predict with a fair degree of certainty what an Al Qaeda terrorist looks like - Arab or Pakistani!
Just as we have always known what Mafiosi look like—even as we understand that only an infinitesimal fraction of Italian Americans are members of the mob."

But wait: do we really know what Mafiosi look like?

In "The Godfather," where most of us get our knowledge of the Mafia, the male members of the Corleone family were played by Marlon Brando, who was of Irish and French ancestry, James Caan, who is Jewish, and two Italian Americans, Al Pacino and John Cazale.
To go by "The Godfather," Mafiosi look like white men of European descent, which, as generalizations go, isn't terribly helpful.
Figuring out what an Islamic terrorist looks like isn't any easier.
Muslims are not like the Amish; they don't come dressed in identifiable costumes.
And they don't look like basketball players; they don't come in predictable shapes and sizes.
Islam is a religion that spans the globe.

Raymond Kelly, New York City's police commissioner states.

"We have a policy against racial profiling; I put it in here in March of the first year I was here.
It's the wrong thing to do, and it's also ineffective.
If you look at the London bombings, you have three British citizens of Pakistani descent.
You have Germaine Lindsay, who is Jamaican.

You have the next crew, on July 21st, who is East African.

A Chechen woman in Moscow blows herself up in the subway station in 2004.
So, whom do you profile?
Look at New York City.
Forty per cent of New Yorkers are born outside the
country.
Look at the diversity here
Who am I supposed to profile?"
Pointing out what might be called profiling "category problem."
Generalizations involve matching a category of people to a behaviour or trait—overweight middle-aged men to heart-attack risk, young men to bad driving.
But, for that process to work, you must be able both to define and to identify the category you are generalizing about.

"Think that terrorists aren't aware of how easy it is to be characterized by ethnicity?
The 9/11 hijackers.
They came to America.
They shaved.
They went to topless
bars.
They wanted to blend in and did.
They wanted to look like they were part of the American dream.
These are not dumb people.

Could a terrorist dress up as a Hasidic Jew and walk into the subway, and not be profiled? Yes.
I think profiling is just nuts."

APBT Bulldogs bans involve a category problem too, because APBT Bulldog's, as it happens, by the public - they aren't just accepted as a single breed.
In South Africa – KUSA the national registering body for all dogs do not accept APBT Bulldogs as a breed … so they are mutts – so, do not let the SPCA, Municipality or SA Police come and tell you that you have a APBT Bulldog – you have a mutt – and they can't prove it otherwise - not even in court – call them mix Bulldogs.

As argued today - the name refers to dogs belonging to several related

breeds, such as the American Staffordshire terrier and the Staffordshire bull terrier and more.

To know is that many other breeds were created using the real APBT Bulldogs baseline which share a square and muscular body, a short snout, and a sleek, short-haired coat.

Thus, the Ontario ban prohibits not only these three breeds but any "dog that has an appearance and physical characteristics that are substantially similar" to the APBT Bulldog; the term of art is "pit bull-type" dogs.

But what does that mean?

Is a cross between an APBT Bulldog and a golden retriever a pit bull-type dog or a golden retriever-type dog?

If thinking about all muscular terriers as "pit bulls" is a generalization, then thinking about dangerous dogs as anything substantially like an APBT Bulldog is also a generalization about a generalization.

Lora Brashears, a kennel manager in Pennsylvania states.

"The way a lot of these laws are written, "pit bulls" **are whatever they say they are** and for most people it just means big, nasty, scary dog that bites."

The goal of "pit bull" bans, obviously, isn't to prohibit dogs that look like "pit bulls."

The "pit-bull" appearance is a proxy for the "pit-bull" temperament, for some trait that these dogs share.

But "pit bullness" turns out to be elusive as well.

The supposedly troublesome characteristics of the APBT Bulldog type—its gameness, its determination, its "somewhat" tolerant to pain in the heat of combat (argumentative …"supposed insensitivity") as some wrongfully believe.

These are chiefly directed toward other dogs or during combat.

APBT Bulldog's were not bred to fight humans **never were**.

On the contrary, any dog that went after spectators, or its handler, or the trainer, or any of the other people involved in making a dog fighting or hog hunting APBT Bulldog a good dog fighter or good hog hunting dog **was usually put down** – still is. (The rule in the APBT Bulldog world was "Man-eaters die") and still do - just like any other breed in training or on duty will be.

Know this >>> about temperament tests concluded in America and the APBT Bulldog.

A Georgia-based group called the American Temperament Test Society hasput twenty-five thousand dogs through a ten-part standardized drill

designed to assess a dog's stability, shyness, aggressiveness, and friendliness in the company of people.
A handler takes a dog on a 2m lead and judges its reaction to stimuli such as gunshots, an umbrella opening, and a weirdly dressed stranger approaching in a threatening way.
Eighty-four per cent of the APBT Bulldogs that have been given the test have passed, which ranks these dogs ahead of beagles, Airedales, Bearded collies, and all but one variety of Dachshund.

Carl Herkstroeter, the president of the A.T.T.S.
"We have tested about a thousand APBT Bulldog game dogs and “pit-bull tpes”, I've tested half of them.
Only one real APBT Bulldog has been disqualified because of aggressive tendencies.
The APBT Bulldog breed has done extremely well.
They have a good temperament and are very good with children.
It can even be argued that the same traits that make the APBT Bulldogs aggressive toward other dogs are what make it so nice to humans.”

The writer “Vicki Hearne”.
” There are a lot of APBT Bulldogs these days who are licensed “therapy dogs”.
Their stability and resoluteness make them excellent for work with people who might not like a bouncier, flighty sort of dog.
When APBT Bulldogs set out to provide comfort, they are as resolute as they are when they fight, but what they are resolute about is being gentle.
And, because they are fearless, they can be gentle with anybody."

“Herkstroeter says –
“Then which are the APBT Bulldogs that get into trouble?
The ones that the legislation is geared toward having aggressive tendencies and are bred by breeders, trained, or purposely reinforced in by the owner just like any other dog breed.

A mean APBT Bulldog is a dog that has been turned mean **by choice**, not only by selective breeding, but being cross-bred with a bigger, human-aggressive breeds like German shepherds, Rottweiler’s or by being conditioned and taught in such a way that they begin to express hostility to human beings.

Specific trained behaviour.

A APBT Bulldog is dangerous to people, then, not to the extent that it expresses its essential Pit Bullness - but to the extent that it deviates from it.
APBT Bulldog ban is a generalization about a generalization about a trait that is not, in fact, general or genetic.

Does the notion of an APBT Bulldog menace rest on a stable or an unstable generalization?
The best data we have on breed dangerousness are fatal dog bites, which serve as a useful indicator of just how much havoc certain kinds of dogs are causing.

Between the late nineteen-seventies and the late nineteen-nineties, more than twenty-five breeds were involved in fatal attacks in the United States.

The APBT Bulldog breeds led the pack, but the variability from year to year is considerable.

‘For instance, in the period from 1981 to 1982 fatalities were caused by five APBT Bulldogs, three mixed breeds, two St. Bernard’s, two German-shepherd mixes, a pure-bred German shepherd, a husky type, a Doberman, a Chow Chow, a Great Dane, a Wolf-dog hybrid, a Husky mix, and a pit-bull mix—but no Rottweiler’s.

In 1995 and 1996, the list included ten Rottweiler’s, four APBT Bulldogs, two German shepherds, two Huskies, two Chow Chows, two Wolf-dog hybrids, two Shepherd mixes, a Rottweiler mix, a mixed breed, a Chow Chow mix, and a Great Dane.

The kinds of dogs that kill people change over time, because the popularityof certain breeds changes over time.
The one thing that doesn't change is the total number of the people killed by dogs.
When we have more problems with APBT Bulldogs, it's not necessarily a sign that APBT Bulldogs are more dangerous than other dogs.
It could just be a sign that APBT Bulldogs have become more numerous because they became more popular and sought after.

Randall Lockwood, a senior vice-president of the A.S.P.C.A. and one of the country's leading dog bite expert’s states.
"I've seen virtually every breed involved in fatalities, including Pomeranians and everything else, except a beagle or a basset hound.

And there are always one or two deaths attributable to Malamutes or

Huskies, although you never hear people clamoring for a ban on those breeds.
When I first started looking at fatal dog attacks, they largely involved dogs like German shepherds and Shepherd mixes and St. Bernard's—whichis probably why Stephen King chose to make Cujo a St. Bernard, not an APBT Bulldog.
I haven't seen a fatality involving a Doberman for decades, whereas in the nineteen-seventies they were quite common.
If you wanted a mean dog, back then, you got a Doberman.
I don't think I even saw my first APBT Bulldog case until the middle to late nineteen-eighties, and I didn't start seeing Rottweiler's until I'd already looked at a few hundred fatal dog attacks.
Now those dogs make up the preponderance of fatalities.

The point is that it changes over time.
It's a reflection of **what the dog of choice is among people who want to own or specifically need on aggressive dog**."

Also, our specific training and more so your purpose of having such a dog in the first place.
There is no shortage of more stable generalizations about dangerous dogs, though.

Denver's study 1991, for example, compared 178 dogs with a history of biting people with a random sample of 17 dogs with no history of biting.
The breeds were scattered:
German shepherds, Akitas, and Chow Chows were heavily represented.
"(There were no APBT Bulldog's among the biting dogs in study, because Denver banned APBT Bulldog's in 1989.)
Several other, more stable factors stand out.
The biters were 6.2 times as likely to be male as female, 2.6 times as likely to be intact as neutered.
Denver's study also found that biters were 2.8 times as likely to bechained as unchained.
Randall Lockwood.
"About 20% of the dogs involved in fatalities were chained at the time, and had a history of long-term chaining, now, are they chained because they are aggressive or aggressive because they are chained?
A bit of both.
These are animals that have not had an opportunity to become socialized with people.
They don't necessarily even know that children are small human beings, seeing them as prey.

In many cases, vicious dogs are hungry, in need of medical attention or just in need of attention.
Often, the dogs had a history of aggressive incidents, and, overwhelmingly, dog bite victims were children (particularly small boys) who were physically vulnerable to attack and may also have unwittingly done things to provoke the dog, like teasing it (this happens daily when children passing in the street) or bothering it while it was eating.

The strongest connection of all, though, is between the trait of dog viciousness and certain kinds of dog owners.
In about a quarter of fatal dog -bite cases, the dog owners were previously involved in illegal fighting and aggressive in nature.
The dogs that bite people are, in many cases, socially isolated because their owners are the socially isolated type, and they are vicious because they have owners who want a vicious dog.
The junk-yard German shepherd—which looks as if it would rip your throat out—and the German-shepherd guide dog are the same breed, but not the same dog, because they have owners with different intentions- needs.

Lockwood.
"A fatal dog attack is not just a dog bite by a big or aggressive dog, it is usually a perfect storm of bad human-canine interactions —the wrong dog, the wrong background, the wrong history in the hands of the wrong person in the wrong environmental situation.

I've been involved in many legal cases involving fatal dog attacks, it's my impression that these are generally cases where everyone is to blame – (not always the dog only).
You've got the unsupervised three-year-old child wandering in the neighborhood killed by a starved, abused dog owned by the dog fighting boyfriend of some woman who doesn't know where her child is.
It's not old “Rover” sleeping by the fire that suddenly goes bonkers.

Usually there are **all kinds of other warning signs” (and circumstances).**
Jayden Clairoux was attacked by Jada, an APBT Bulldog, and her two” **pitbullmastiff puppies**, Agua and Akasha – mix breed pups.
The dogs were owned by a twenty-one-year-old man named Shridev Café, who worked in construction and did odd jobs.
Five weeks before the Clairoux attack -Café's three dogs got out from her yard and attacked a sixteen-year-old boy and his four-year-old half-brother while they were ice skating.

The boys beat back the animals with a snow shovel and escaped into a neighbor’s house.
Café was fined, and he moved the dogs to his seventeen-year-old girl friend's house.

This was not the first time that he ran into trouble that year; a few months later, he was charged with domestic assault, and, in another incident, involving a street brawl, with aggravated assault.
"Shridev has personal issues,"
Cheryl Smith, a canine behaviour specialist who consulted says... "He's certainly not a very mature person."
The puppies Agua and Akasha were now about seven months old.
The court order in the wake of the first attack -required that they be muzzled when they were outside the home and kept in an enclosed yard.
But Café did not muzzle them, because, he said later, he couldn't afford muzzles, and here is the clinker >>>no one from the city or SPCA **ever came by to force him to comply**.
A few times, he talked about taking his dogs to obedience classes**, but never did.**
The subject of neutering them also came up—particularly Agua, the male.
But neutering cost a hundred dollars, which he evidently thought was too much money (*after all dogs do not bite with their balls -MK*).
When the city temporarily confiscated his animals after the first attack, **they did not neuter them**, either, because Ottawa does not have a policy of preemptively neutering dogs that bite people.

On the second attack, according to some accounts, a visitor came by the house of Café's girlfriend, and the dogs got wound up.
They were put **outside loose in the yard** -where the snowbanks were high enough so that the backyard fence could be readily jumped.
Jayden Clairoux stopped and stared at the dogs, **saying**.
"Puppies, puppies" - his mother called out to his father.
His father came running, which is the kind of thing that will rile up aggressive dogs.
The dogs jumped the fence, and Agua grabbed Jayden by the head and started to shake.

It was a textbook dog-biting case:
Not neutered (as required by law), ill-trained, charged -up dogs, with a history of immediate aggression and an irresponsible owner, got out of the owner’s yard because of his lack to ensure that his dogs are safely

confined in his yard and set upon a small child.
Also, the dogs had already passed through the animal bureaucracy of Ottawa, and the city could easily have prevented the second attack with the right kind of generalization—a generalization based not on breed but on the known and meaningful connection between dangerous dogs and neglected by owners.
But that would have required someone (paid officials) to track down (followed up) on Shridev Café, and check to see whether he had bought muzzles, and someone to send the dogs to be neutered after the first attack, and an animal-control law official that insured that those whose dogs attack small children, be held responsible and accountable and **forfeit their right to have a dog.**
It would have required, that is, a more exacting set of generalizations to be bore exactingly applied.
Then it is always easier just to ban the breed. **Is it not?**

That's it – Gawie Manjaro MK.