

To all Texas State Representatives,

I have recently become aware that Tyler attorney and former state district judge Cynthia Stevens Kent is asking two Texas legislators to push a bill outlawing the ownership of pit bulls and/or pit bull mixed dogs in Texas, and to make the possession of the breed a third-degree felony. If this bill is accepted in ANY form, the outcome will be devastating to dog owners and lovers, especially those of us who have taken pit bull mixes off of the streets and out of BARC and made them members of our families.

In Denver a 2005 a law was passed outlawing pit Bulls and over 3,400 REGISTERED family pets were taken from their homes and destroyed (killed and burned) in just 3 months of enactment. This type of legislation is bad for Texas because:

1- Dog fighters do not register their pets because they intend to perform an illegal activity with the dogs. According to the ASPCA :

- More than 70 percent of all dog bite cases involve unneutered male dogs.
- An unneutered male dog is 2.6 times more likely to bite than is a neutered dog.
- A chained or tethered dog is 2.8 times more likely to bite than a dog who is not chained or tethered.
- 97 percent of dogs involved in fatal dog attacks in 2006 were not spayed/neutered:
- \*\*\*\*\*78 percent were maintained not as pets, but rather for guarding, image enhancement, fighting or breeding\*\*\*\*\*
- 84 percent were maintained by reckless owners-these dogs were abused or neglected, not humanely controlled or contained, or allowed to interact with children unsupervised.
- You can view this information at <http://www.aspcapro.org/are-breed-specific-laws-effective.php>

2- Many (25% according to the American Humane Association) dog bite situations, INCLUDING the recent one in Tyler, involved dogs that were chained. Dogs that are chained are much more likely to be aggressive no matter what breed they are. A chained golden retriever is as likely to bite a person as a chained pit bull.

3- Laws such as this punish people who have worked hard to rescue and own a specific breed responsibly.

4- There is no reasonable way to tell exactly what a dog's genetic makeup is. Many dogs that were euthanized in Denver were labeled "pit bull mixes" with no reliable information that the dog was indeed a Pit Bull.

5- A great deal of the Houston area rescue organizations and volunteers live in your district. If this law is passed, thousands of family pets will be ripped from the homes of your constituents and destroyed.

For responsible owners and rescuers of any breed, BSL is genocide in the simplest form. FAR MORE children die at the hands of their own parents than from dog attacks.

I urge all of you to understand the reality of what BSL brings to a state and and oppose any form of Breed Specific Legislation. If you need any information how many Houstonians feel about BSL, chaining, or responsible ownership- PLEASE FEEL FREE to contact me personally.

Thank you for your time.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone contact: \_\_\_\_\_

[http://www.humanesociety.org/issues/chaining\\_tethering/facts/chaining\\_tethering\\_facts.html](http://www.humanesociety.org/issues/chaining_tethering/facts/chaining_tethering_facts.html)

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To all Texas State Senators,

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