



## **GOLDEN HORSESHOE AMERICAN PIT BULL TERRIER CLUB ONTARIO CANADA**

The Golden Horseshoe American Pit Bull Terrier Club would like to provide our full and complete support for the upcoming Bill to repeal the breed specific portions of the Dog Owner's Liability Act that was enacted August 2005. It has been an exceptionally lengthy journey to get to this point for us as purebred dog owners in Ontario. We were very disappointed and distressed after attending all the committee hearings and comprehending they were against the ban, and not withdrawing the breed specific language. It has exceedingly impacted our daily lives since its inception.

The Golden Horseshoe American Pit Bull Terrier Club along with the other purebred breed clubs joined collectively with other organizations the Dog Legislation Council of Canada and Advocates For The Underdog to form the Banned Aid Coalition with the aim of providing information and research about the breed and dogs with similar characteristics, with supporting non breed specific information. Since that time the Banned Aid Coalition in 2019 has expanded to include the Ontario "Pit Bull " Co-op and Anml Resq. Both groups were unfaltering supporters against the ban in 2004 and committed today as partners in helping repeal this ineffective legislation.

We support and applaud any additional penalties for negligent dog owners, especially repeat offenders. Increased fines, awareness for dog prevention and penalizing irresponsible owners, regardless of breed. This is what we requested in the beginning.

We want to see public safety increase overall, for all citizens in Ontario, with effective dog responsibility laws for all dog owners. Everyone warrants fair and equal treatment. Dog bite victims of all dog attacks deserve the same rights. The responsibility must lie directly on the dog owner, they must be held accountable for the actions of their dog. Improving the Dog Owner's Liability Act with increased fines and harsher penalties, while removing the breed specific portions, ensures that each and

every dog owner, regardless of breed, type or shape, will be held accountable.

In addition, with increased enforcement of primarily municipal animal by-laws and secondary provincial by-laws such as the Dog Owner's Liability Act, combined with dog bite prevention and proper resources for all dog owners, that licensing will increase and irresponsible ownership will decrease. The end result, which we all can perceive, is increased public safety and a high standard set for dog ownership.

Currently the province does not have a dog bite registry and municipalities/regions statistics are lacking. Even tracking a dog bite by public health from the hospital records onward is lacking. Dog bite prevention programs are few and far between, yet statistics show, children from a young age given regular bite prevention information are less likely to be bitten. This has nothing to do with breed specific, because dog bites are universal. It is about increasing safety.

This Bill gives all dog owners the equal rights and fair treatment we deserve and pushes forward active legislation to deal with irresponsible dog owners and repeat offenders. The evidence against breed specific was and is overwhelming against the ban in 1987 and again in 2004. We are pleased to be able to support the Conservatives in their endeavor to correct the injustices in the province of Ontario.

Sincerely

Sandra Alway  
President