



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUBSM

The American Kennel Club believes model laws are an extremely important component when it comes to fighting breed-specific legislation. That's because they offer legislators an alternative to discriminatory laws. Elected officials are looking to ways to keep their communities safe, and we want to help them find the best approach. If we can provide them with a reasonable, enforceable legislative solution that will protect their constituents, they will often back away from breed-specific measures. In order to do this, there are several key points AKC believes such laws should contain.

Reasonable, enforceable dangerous dog laws should:

- Avoid breed-specific language. Laws should judge the deed, not the breed.
- Establish measurable, objective criteria for determining a dangerous dog.
 - Ideally, the measure will include at least two designations (i.e. potentially dangerous/dangerous) based on severity of behavior.
- Establish defenses such as provocation.
- Establish a well-defined procedure for determining a dog dangerous, i.e. a complaint is filed, an investigation is made, a hearing is set, etc.
- Provide owners with an appeal process.
- Determine the outcome of a potentially dangerous/dangerous designation.
 - Based on the designation, the measure will address whether the dog should be restricted (and if so, how much), or if it should be banned altogether. It will also address whether the owner should be required to sterilize the dog, complete a behavior training class or take other measures to prevent a similar incident from happening again.
- Establish care conditions, if appropriate.
 - Depending on the outcome, this may include some or all of the following requirements: that the dog be kept in a secure enclosure; that the dog be sterilized, registered and microchipped; and that the owners purchase liability insurance.
- Establish procedures for violations.

Laws may also provide for a dog to have its potentially dangerous or dangerous designation removed if a reasonable amount of time has passed with no additional behavior incidents.