



Dane County Humane Society Board of Directors Position Statement Breed Specific Legislation

Approved June 16, 2020

Breed Specific Legislation

The Dane County Humane Society (DCHS) opposes legislation that bans or is directed at individual breeds of animals. Laws that ban or that are directed at specific breeds do not prevent harm or damage caused by companion animals.

Owners and guardians of all breeds must be held accountable for the actions and behaviors of their companion animals. They have the ultimate responsibility for any harm or damage that their pets do to people, property, or other animals.

For example, the American Veterinary Medical Association and certain animal welfare organizations argue based on their research that a dog's individual history and behavior are far more reliable indicators of a dog's potential to harm or cause damage than assumptions based on its breed. Furthermore, case studies on breed-discriminatory policies show that such legislative efforts are not only ineffective, but they are also very costly to administer because enforcement is difficult.

References:

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