

Canine Chronicle

Who's a good dog? We have the answer.



December 2017

Special Edition

Canine Chronicle

Tina Chafe, *Publisher*
Founded in 2017
St. John's, Newfoundland

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Tina Chafe

CONTRIBUTORS

Chantelle Mackney, *Justice for Bullies*
Ken Reid, *Dog Trainer and Behaviorist*
Dr. M. Brown-Bury, *Veterinarian*
Chelsey Rideout, *Dog Enthusiast*
Megan Bateman, *Dog Enthusiast*

Subscribe today!

Email address:

In This Issue



Features

What is Breed Specific Legislation?
BSL in Canada: Where is It?
Why Breed-specific Legislation is not the Answer
Top 12 Breeds Affected by BSL Worldwide

In Local News

A Look Back: The Story of the "CBS Seven"
Health Advisory: Parvovirus on the Rise
Meet the Trainer: Ken Reid



On the Lighter Side

If Dogs Used "Tinder"

What is Breed Specific Legislation?

Breed specific legislation (BSL) is an attempt by legislators to reduce dog bites by targeting specific types of dogs.



Often, BSL is implemented as a reaction to one or two recent and highly publicized serious attacks in the area. Politicians feel that they must be seen to be doing something to protect public safety. The media jumps on board very quickly and often points out additional incidents involving similar breeds (or dogs that might be that breed), at the same time blatantly ignoring or minimizing attacks by other breeds.



In some cases, the politicians truly believe that there is something “different” about a certain breed or two, but in most cases, the targeting of certain types of dogs is purely

designed to appease a misinformed and frightened public without having to put time, effort, and money into solving the problem of dog bites by all breeds.

BSL can range from something as mild as a higher licence fees for specific breeds to an all-out ban, including mandatory destruction of any prohibited dog found within the boundaries of the legislating jurisdiction. Some restrictions that various versions of BSL impose are:

- Muzzling and leashing in public
- Muzzling and leashing in cars
- Extra-short leash lengths
- Automatic dangerous or vicious dog designation, without any bite history
- Banning from city parks and beaches where other breeds are allowed
- Banning from leash-free parks where other breeds are allowed
- Banning completely from jurisdiction (although sometimes existing dogs are allowed to stay)
- Special (i.e. more expensive) licensing and jurisdiction-wide registry
- Special tags identifying the dog as a restricted dog
- Mandatory micro-chipping and photograph
- Mandatory insurance (often one million dollars) for each individual dog on the premises
- Mandatory signage indicating the presence of the dog on the owner's property
- Mandatory secure enclosures (in some cases, mandatory chaining)
- Mandatory spay/neuter (to eventually eliminate the breed entirely)
- Higher fines and/or jail time if a restricted breed bites or menaces
- Fines and/or jail time for any infraction of any provision regarding restricted breeds
- Age limit for walking the dog in public
- Persons with criminal records not allowed to own a restricted breed

- Ability of law enforcement to stop owners on the street just to the dog's status
- Ability of law enforcement to seize dogs without proof of wrongdoing
- Ability of law enforcement to enter an owner's home, with or without a warrant, to investigate and/or seize a dog.



Because it is impossible to scientifically or legally identify what breed or breeds an individual dog may contain, BSL legislation often places the responsibility for disproving the breed-specific charges onto the shoulders of the owner. Since many of these laws contain phrases such as “predominately conforming to the breed standards” or “having substantially similar physical characteristics”, the owner is left with the unenviable task of proving that his dog does not “look like” one of the targeted breeds. If he is unable to do so convincingly, the unusual result is the destruction of the dog, as well as fines and/or jail time for the owner. BSL has been proven to be ineffective, unenforceable, and expensive.



BSL in Canada: Where is It?



Why Breed-specific Legislation is Not the Answer

Imagine you were told you weren't allowed to live somewhere or do something because you had a specific “look” about you that some other people didn't like. Or maybe you look like someone who did something bad, even though you haven't done anything bad yourself. Imagine someone who's never met you decides that you're a bad person and a danger to society. They won't let you live in their neighborhoods or walk in their parks or streets. Is that acceptable?



It's not acceptable, but it's happening to dogs in our country and around the world. Breed-specific legislation (or BSL) targets specific breeds of dogs that are thought to be dangerous and make ownership of these dogs illegal. This type of legislation might even mandate that shelter or stray dogs that fit a certain “look” be euthanized instead of

placed in homes regardless of their background or temperament. Several cities and towns across the United States and Canada have adopted breed-specific measures, ranging from placing restrictions and requirements on dog owners to outright bans on owning any “pit bull-type” dogs. Frequently breed-specific legislation focuses on dogs with a certain appearance or physical characteristics instead of an actual breed. “Pit bulls” are the most frequent victims of breed-specific legislation despite being a general type rather than a breed, but specific breeds are also sometimes banned including Rottweilers, Dobermans, and Boxers.



Breed-specific laws can be tough to enforce, especially when a dog’s breed can’t easily be determined, or it is of mixed breed. A recent study showed that even people very familiar with dog breeds cannot reliably determine the primary breed of a mutt, and dogs are often incorrectly classified as “pit bulls”. By generalizing the behaviors of dogs that look a certain way, innocent dogs suffer and may even be euthanized without evidence that they pose a threat. Responsible dog owners are forced to give up their dogs or move. Cities

and states spend money enforcing restrictions and bans instead of putting that money to better use by establishing and strictly enforcing licensing and leash laws, and responding proactively to target owners of any dog that poses a risk to the community.



Any dog can bite, regardless of its breed, and more often people are bitten by dogs they know. It’s not the breed that determines risk — it’s the dog’s behavior, general size, number of dogs involved, and the vulnerability of the person bitten that determines whether or not a dog, or dogs, will cause serious injury. Dogs can be aggressive for all sorts of reasons. A dog that has bitten once can bite again, and a dog that has never bitten could still bite. Don’t rely on breed stereotypes to keep yourself safe from dog bites. A dog’s individual history and behavior are much more important than its breed, and since you don’t always know a dog’s history or behavior, it’s not a good idea to make assumptions. Instead, concentrate on prevention: educate yourself, teach children about proper interactions and behaviors with dogs, and learn how to recognize risky and escalating situation with aggressive dogs. These steps — not breed-specific legislation — will lead to fewer dog bites.

Top Twelve Banned Dog Breeds Worldwide

1. Fila Brasileiro
2. Alaskan Malamutes
3. Doberman Pinscher
4. Czechoslovakian Wolfdog
5. Neapolitan Mastiff
6. Presa Canario
7. Pit Bulls
8. Tosa Ken
9. Perro de Presa Mallorquin
10. American Bulldog
11. Rottweiler
12. Bloodhound

A Look Back: The Story of the CBS Seven

On December 11, 2013 I received a call from Constable Talia Murphy of the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary regarding an unknown number of pit bulls left abandoned in a house in CBS. Constable Murphy was asking for advice on how to deal with the situation. She stated that CBS Animal Control was on site as well as several RNC officers. They had requested the help of Dr. Steel, owner and veterinarian of the CBS Animal Hospital. Dr. Steel was arriving to assess the situation and possibly sedate the dogs, so they could be more readily handled. After discussing a variety of scenarios with Constable Murphy, it was requested that I go to the address and lend aid to the RNC and Humane Services officers.

Upon arriving on the scene, there were many Humane Services and RNC officers already present. A variety of concerns were expressed. These concerns included:

- There were an unknown number of dogs in the house and shed
- The dogs that could be seen were pit bulls
- The mental stability of the dogs was unknown

- The physical condition of the dogs was unknown

Upon consultation with Dr. Steel, we decided on the following plan:

Catch poles and sedation were not needed until a more thorough assessment could be done to discover if there was any need to use either. Catch poles are intimidating to most dogs. Both catch poles and sedation would only be used when all other methods were ruled out.

Myself and an RNC officer would enter the house with Dr. Steel standing by outside I would use a leash to handle the dogs and start escorting them out of the house one at a time to the awaiting Animal Control officers who were ready with kennels to place each dog. With that plan in place, we decided to approach the house.

The first thing I noticed upon approached the house was the stench emanating from the place. The odor of animal excrement was in the air. You have to keep in mind, this was December 11 about 9:30 pm. Snow was on the ground and it was around minus 10. To have that kind of smell coming from a home in those kinds of conditions meant something was not kosher. We approached the back door to be met by a large male lunging at the glass. This guy was on the larger side, his ears were cropped, and he was intimidating looking. Upon shining a light through the door, I could see this male was in a porch alone. The floor was covered in layers of feces. Now, when I say "layers", I do not mean a pile of feces here and there, I mean feces covered the entire floor and it was inches deep. I turned off the light, calmly talked to the dog for a moment, opened the door to let him get a sniff at me and when I saw friendly signs, put the leash over his head and walked him into the awaiting kennel. He was excited to see me, appeared friendly to human interaction and despite the chaos of all the awaiting authorities, the lights from the vehicles and the excitement of being outside, he jumped into my arms, gave me a lick and walked into the kennel. It was after this that I found

out Humane Services had named this guy, Blue. I returned to the RNC officer, exchanged a hope that the rest would be as good and proceeded to the main door of the house.



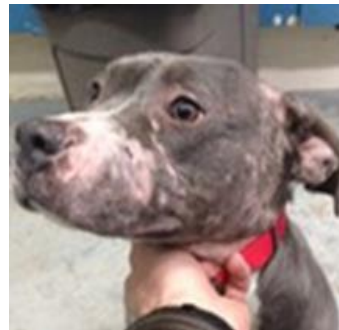
Upon shining the lights in there, I was greeted with a similar scene except this time, we could see three dogs. One was again lunging at the door, one was at the head of the stairs leading to the basement barred from the upstairs by a wire bed frame propped in the door opening, and one was chained to the washing machine just inside the door. Again, feces coated the floor, there were holes that appeared to be chewed in the walls, furniture shredded, and the dogs looked to have some injuries.

The first dog we took from the house was a small female. When I entered the house, initially she jumped back with a start and cowered. But upon bending over and speaking with her, she sniffed at me,



jumped into my arms and after a bit of loving, out I walked with her. She was called Jazebelle.

Next, I decided to look at the dog that was chained to the washing machine. When I approached this girl, she was scared. I approached slowly, calmly and on her level. She licked me. I saw wounds up and down the side of her face. She was in a mess. At the time I could not be certain if the wounds were caused by dog bites or the chain which had been wrapped around her neck, or a combination of the two. In any case, while hesitant to be handled, she allowed me to remove the chain from her neck, loop the leash and walk her out of the house. She was later called Roxy.



We re-entered the house to remove Diesel. Diesel is a male Rottie/Pittie mix or a Pittie with a recessive gene.... the discussion continues as to which. A beautiful boy who was behind the wire bed frame at the head of the stairs. He whined and cried to get out from behind the bed frame and when I took the frame down, he immediately bounded into my arms and gave me a serious face washing. I walked him out of the house after some loving into the kennels of the awaiting animal control officers.

Myself and a couple of the RNC officers proceeded to walk through the rest of the home. You have all by now seen the videos and pictures posted on the state of the house. I can tell you that the media pictures did not do it justice. There was feces throughout the house. The only signs of food were shredded empty food bags

scattered throughout the house. There was no water, not even in the toilets. After entering every room, it was determined that there were no further animals in the house and we could move to dealing with the dogs in the shed.



Since the plan for the house worked well, we decided to follow the same plan for the shed. I went to the shed with Dr. Steel, shined the light in through the door but could not ascertain what the shed contained. We could hear the dogs barking and crying but they were all behind wooden partitions which blocked our view. Given the confined quarters and the unknown situation, it was decided that I would go in alone to this one with Dr. Steel standing outside the door, ready to assist. I grabbed a flashlight, a leash and entered the shed. I found three boarded up stalls. There were no gates, no evidence of water and again only a shredded empty food bag on the floor to show that they were fed. I looked to find three stalls, each containing a dog and again a floor full of feces. There were no gates on them so the only way to get them out was for me to jump into each stall individually and lift the dogs over the barrier. Two dogs showed signs of being fearful, one was jumping at the barrier quite happily.

Miss Happy pants was the one I removed first. I later found out her name was Willa. When I hopped in with her, she gave me another face wash which rivalled Diesel's and was only too happy to jump into my arms. I lifted her over the barrier to place

her on the floor only to have her jump up on top of the barrier again to try to pull herself over the ledge to jump into my arms again. I attached a leash onto her and just handed her to the waiting officers.



The second dog from the shed that I jumped in with got named Phebe. She was a little shy and nervous at first. She darted to the end of her kennel and approached slowly. However, within a couple of minutes, she was happily licking at me and allowed me to lift her over the ledge and bring her to the humane services vehicle.



The third dog was a little more reserved and scared. It took her a little longer to warm up and feel comfortable being handled. However, when she did, she melted into my arms, put her head on my shoulder, tucked into my neck and it was in this position that I brought her from the shed and into the arms of Dr. Steel. She later became the media darling and was the dog in Zach Goudie's arms during the CBC Here and Now segment.



All dogs were brought back to CBS Animal Hospital to be checked and treated. All were dehydrated and very hungry. A couple of them had wounds and cuts on them from what appeared to be bites from the other dogs and burns from laying in their own urine.

I attended the hospital two days later, was given a tour of the place by the staff and got to see three of the dogs. Poor Blue had just come out of surgery having been neutered hours before. Despite their ordeal, I got to hang out with the three and further see their demeanours. I posted pictures that night to Facebook of my visit. For the next five minutes, I could do nothing. My account was slammed with notifications from people liking the pictures and commenting on them. My computer screen was lit up like a Christmas tree.

The following week I was asked by the Town of CBS to return to Humane Services and complete assessments on each of the dogs. I did so with pleasure. Five of the dogs; Diesel, Willa, Jaze, Roxy, and Shay were staying at Humane Services. Blue, and Phebe were at CBS Animal Hospital. I conducted the assessment and found only a couple of concerns. Diesel and Blue were dog reactive especially with male dogs. Work with these two is going to have to be conducted to ensure appropriate counter conditioning is done change this behaviour and their owners would have to be aware of how to monitor and deal with this behaviour until the work for the change could happen. Shay and Roxy were the other concern that

I had. They were friendly enough and gentle, but their shyness and fear concerned me. Work with them toward building appropriate self confidence would have to be done. Jaze exhibited similar behaviours although to a lesser extent. Willa was a wiggle worm and seemed to be unfazed by anything.

Today I was contacted by the Town of CBS officials stating that the dogs have all been placed in their new homes. As a part of the adoption contract, the new owners have to complete at least one, one on one with myself so we can discuss future training and raising of these dogs. All these dogs are going to be a handful in a variety of ways. The Town wanted the new owners to start things on the right track and set these dogs up for success as opposed to reacting after a failure occurred. I am happy to report that as of this writing, I have already been contacted by three of the new owners and expect to hear from the other four within the next couple of days.

This experience was hugely rewarding and was one that I was only happy to be involved in. I must throw out a number of bouquets to the people who were involved with this:

1. Props to the person who originally reported the situation and made the authorities aware. More people should stand up to animal abuse and not tolerate it even if they are reporting their neighbour, their friend, their brother.... these dogs could not speak for themselves. Good for you for being their voice.
2. Huge props to the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary and CBS Humane Services for calling me in. It took guts that night to do so. Huge respect going out to you.
3. Dr. Lesley Steel of CBS Animal Hospital. This incident was my first experience dealing with you and your staff and it will not be my last. You were the ultimate professional on the scene and within minutes I felt comfortable with you at my

back. Anybody in the CBS area looking for a vet office.... I cannot say enough good things about these guys.

4. The Town of CBS....be in Humane Services, the Administration and the Mayor. Huge bouquet to you and the efforts you put into this one. From the animal control officers on the scene, to getting all the dogs spayed and neutered, having them assessed properly and taking the time to find homes based on the assessment. My hat goes off to you and yours. Your actions in this case are a good example for other jurisdictions.

I would like to end this post by reposting a comment I made to my Facebook group that night about these dogs.... here it is:

To all the friends, families and supporters that have been keeping up with the story of the 7 pities in CBS. Yes, it is a disgusting situation and I am glad it is getting the attention that it is getting. More people need to be aware of the plight of our four-legged companions and need to get mad. They need to be able to say "No, this is not right, and it is not going to be tolerated...not in my community, not in my town and not while I know". Stand up to animal cruelty and abuse. Report it and sing it from the roof tops. Be the voice for those that cannot speak for themselves. They will thank you for it.

People also need to be aware that just because a dog is a pit bull...does not mean the dog should be treated any differently than any other dog out there. Pit Bulls are no better and no worse than any other breed. Like any dog, it is all in how they are bred and raised.

For those looking to do something for these seven...CBS Humane Services have completely taken them on. People are lining up to foster and adopt. I don't know the plan for the future for them but am hoping to stay involved. They need it.

I just want to remind people that there are a lot of dogs out there.... dogs with the SPCA, Beagle Paws, Heavenly Creatures, Bullies in Need, GPAC to name a few... who are just as worthy and need your help. If you want to do something, send some support their way. Donations of money, food, supplies, fostering, and adoptions are always in short supply. Heck, donate to those groups in the name of the CBS Seven....all involved will appreciate.

Thanks for the kind words too guys. They are much appreciated. I love what I do and appreciate the opportunity to help out when it is needed.

Health Advisory: Parvo Explosion in Local Pets

A St. John's veterinarian says she's seen more cases of the Parvo virus in the last month than she's seen in the past seven years.

Dr. Margaret Brown-Bury says the virus is known to be common in puppies, but she says it can hit any dog that has not been vaccinated.

She says Parvo virus attacks the dog's gastrointestinal tracts, causing severe vomiting and diarrhea, and a loss of appetite.

Dr. Brown-Bury says the disease can be fatal in puppies.



She says in talking with colleagues across the country, there have been many cases this year where the puppy didn't make it. She says older dogs fare better, but admits it can be costly as they end up in hospital for several days.

Dr. Brown-Bury says the best line of defence against the Parvo virus is to vaccinate your canine. She says it is incredibly contagious, and cautions against bringing dogs that have not been vaccinated to the dog park.

She says dogs can shed the virus before they get sick, and if your dog isn't vaccinated, she says they can get exposed.

Meet the Trainer: Ken Reid



Dogs: Morgan, Tanner, and Rigger

Email: kenreid@nldogwhisperer.com

Organizations Ken works with:

A Dog's World Inc.: Group Obedience Instructor, Behaviorist

CBS Animal Hospital: Group Obedience Instructor, Behaviorist

St. John Ambulance Therapy Dog Program: Provincial Instructor, Evaluator

St. John's SPCA: Assess and Evaluate dogs, Behavior Consultant, Behavior medication plans for shelter

FurEver Young Senior Animal Rescue: Assess and Evaluate dogs, Behavior consultant

For the Love of Dogs: Founder and Organizer

Animal Behavior College: Instructor/Mentor

Court Certified Canine Expert

St. John Ambulance: Pet First Aid Instructor

Services Offered:

One-On-One: In home assessments, behaviour modification

Group Classes: Basic, Advanced and Master's Level Obedience, My Dog is Awesome, Puppy Foundations

Board and Train Programs

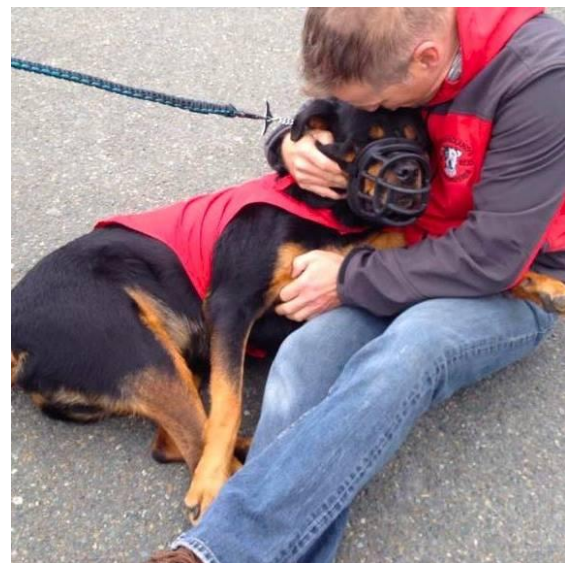
Group Dog Walks and Socialization

Obedience and Handling Demos

Private Clinics and Presentations

School and Community Group

Presentations



Dog Training is a very rewarding and fun experience.

I started this path in 2005 when another dog trainer asked myself and my yellow Labrador retriever, Morgan, to assist him with demonstrations for his classes. I thought it would be a great experience. My social work education and training meant I was very accustomed to working with people, developing behavior modification plans. Classical, operant conditioning and learning theory were my bread and butter.

The trainer recognised this and knew it would be a natural fit. He asked me to intern under him.

I did so for two years and rose through the ranks from assistant to instructor. Since then I have taught thousands of people, and have helped just as many dogs. I love to help families communicate more effectively with their dogs and help them address any issues with their canine companion.

No dog is too difficult to handle. My help focuses much on examining the family dynamics in the home. My behavior modification techniques rely on the use of positive reinforcement, structure, boundaries, exercise and proper communication with your dog. Systematic desensitization and counter conditioning are key to help fixing many issues and having your dog become a valued and healthy member of your family. I use the latest in evidence based practice and progressive training methods to achieve results. Again, no dog is too difficult to handle, no problem too complex to be addressed.

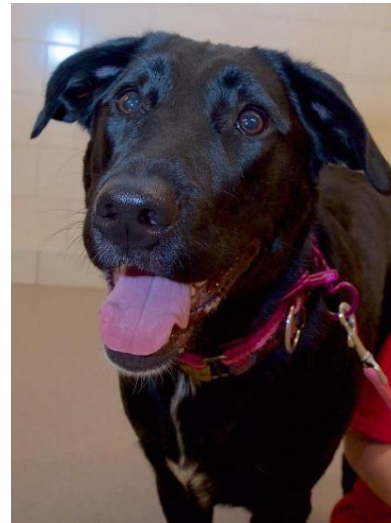
Feel free to contact me about any issues you are having. We can discuss the issues, develop a plan to deal with the behaviors and help your dog become a well-balanced, well-adjusted member of the family. While you are visiting, check out the rest of the site. You will find a wealth of helpful information, write ups and advice. You will also be able to read about some of the success stories I have been involved with. You will be introduced to my pack both immediate and extended, get more information on the types of training I do and the services I offer.

If you are on Facebook, feel free to check out my group called "For the Love of Dogs". It is a free service. It is also a fun and worthwhile experience for you and your canine companion.

If you wish to get your family pictures done, or wish to have a photo-shoot of your

loveable canine companion, I do that too. Check out kenreidphoto.com for information and a sample of my work.

Ken Reid, B.A., B.S.W., M.S.W., R.S.W.



On the Lighter Side

If Dogs Used "Tinder"

Name: Winston



Breed: Mastweiler

Age: 2 (but that's like 20 in human years)

Work: Helping my Mom



Puppies: Nope, sorry ladies, I'm neutered

Hobbies: Eating snacks, car rides with my Mom, walks with my Mom, following my Mom, wondering where my Mom is when I can't see her. Did I say eating snacks yet? Oh, and did I mention my Mom?

Ideal First Date: Well I live with my Mom, so I could get her to pick you up, and you could sit in the back with me. We could hang our heads out the window and bark at things we don't like, especially things that I think might hurt my Mom. If Mom says I'm a good boy, then she'll bring us to Tim Horton's and buy us Timbits, isn't that great! I love my Mom. Then you can go home, and I can go home with my Mom.



Okay, bye!

Name: Jada

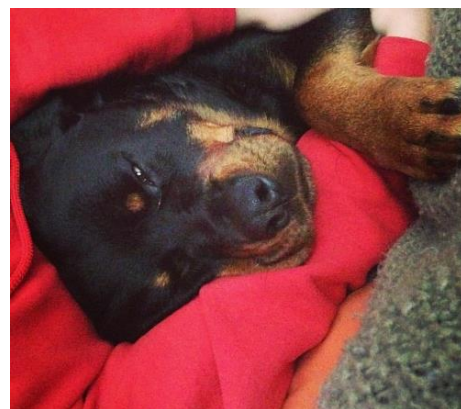
Breed: Rottweiler



Age: 6

Body type: More to love

Work: Domestic security guard



Puppies: Puppies are great, but I'm spayed!

Hobbies: Dissecting stuffies, cramming myself into humans' laps, hikes, car rides, begging for cheese, and terrorizing the neighbours.

A bit about me: I have been told I'm a bit of a snob, but once you get to know me I'll be

all over you. I prefer females (sorry, boys!) and my ideal type is a small girl I could chase around the house and stalk. I've been told I have big beautiful eyes, and when I love something you can see the passion and excitement in them. I am on a new diet and weight-loss kick, and would love a partner to hike with.

Ideal first date: My parents will come pick you up and take us out to Brewkies. When we get there, we can pick out our treats, but don't be surprised if I'm too excited by your presence to eat, and just stalk you instead. I'd love to end the day with a romantic walk in the park, where I will playfully try to pee on your head and jump on you



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I created the banner for this project in memory of a special dog. RIP Beau, there is no judgement where you are now.

REFERENCES

<https://justice-for-bullies.myshopify.com/pages/bslincanada>

<https://www.avma.org/public/Pages/Why-Breed-Specific-Legislation-is-not-the-Answer.aspx>

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/lifestyle/pets/top-12-banned-dog-breeds/ss-AAbAQTC?OCID=HPDHP#image=1>

<http://nldogwhisperer.com/supplemental-training-resou/blog/story-of-the-cbs-seven.html>

<http://vocm.com/news/local-vet-warns-pet-owners-after-parvo-explosion/>

<http://nldogwhisperer.com/introducing-the-training/ken-reid/>