



Open Letter from the CPSPC

Description

The “Pit Bulls” File: A Sensible Response to a Hasty Decision

Open Letter

The Coalition to Promote the Safety of People and Canines (CPSPC)

21 September 2016

In a few days, the municipal council of the city of Montreal will meet to vote on the adoption of a by-law that could redefine the humane and tolerant reputation that the city currently holds. After the tragic death of a citizen in June, many Quebec elected officials are pushing for the adoption of a law banning all “Pit Bull” type” dogs, under the pretense of improving public safety. But the reality that has been proven around the world, is that this type of approach to animal management is expensive, ineffective, and doomed to fail.

These elected officials in order to support their position, including Denis Coderre, are rallying behind so-called experts who have claimed that the only possible solution is to ban “pit bull” type dogs. However, until this very day we have never heard these experts speak in public. Why hide them? Why not cite the studies on which their claims are based? Why is it that our elected officials are unable to support their claims with tangible facts? In fact, according to most experts, banning a specific breed of dog does not attack the root of the problem.

The Coalition to Promote the Safety of People and Canines is coming forward with a direct response to the claims by the city’s municipal administration. Having been founded on the support of numerous credible experts with diverse backgrounds (veterinary medicine, animal behaviour specialists, sociologists, scientists, lawyers, criminologists, etc.), as well as responsible dog guardians, our Coalition firmly believes that the implementation of a breed-specific ban will not lead to a decrease in serious dog bites incidents. On the contrary, it would result in a false sense of security.

Our arguments are based on concrete facts and figures, all of which the municipal administration is unwilling to bring to the public’s attention. However, one does not have to look too far to find this information.

- In 2005, the province of Ontario banned all “Pit Bull” type dogs. According to a study conducted by the Toronto Humane Society in 2010, in the five years following this ban, there was no significant decrease in the number of dog bites recorded. Furthermore, in the 7 years following the legislation’s adoption, the



number of hospitalizations resulting from serious bites increased by 45 %.

- In Manitoba, the number of hospitalizations linked to dog bites remains unchanged since the adoption of a “pit bull” ban in 1990.
- Meanwhile Quebec, has recorded 6 deaths due to serious dog bites in the past 30 years, only one of which was caused by a dog identified as a “pit-bull” type, albeit with no official confirmation of the breed by scientific or veterinary experts.

There is no question that any death caused by a dog, regardless of its breed, is a tragedy. If we wish to diminish, and eventually altogether eliminate these unfortunate events, pure and simple, breed-specific legislation is not the solution. An initiative to educate dog guardians, as well as society in general, must be undertaken in order to favour the development of safer habits and behaviours. Achieving a greater level of public awareness, by all possible means (visits to elementary and high schools, information kiosks in CEGEPs and universities, posters, advertisements, etc.), is an absolute priority in order to ensure that a maximum amount of dogs are sterilized, vaccinated, walked on leash; all measures that have been proven, time and time again, to increase public security, rather than to arbitrarily ban a specific dog breed.

Here is what does work: more education, a better understanding of canine behavior, better management of adoptions as well as the introduction of stricter legislation with more severe penalties for offenders. And here it is what does not work: a law based on fear and intolerance, appearing to reassure the public without truly offering any protection.

Our elected officials have the chance to make Montreal a pioneer in animal management and from the bottom of our hearts, this is what the members of the Coalition want.

Me Geneviève Grey

Lawyer, Grey Casgrain s.e.n.c.

Co-Founder, The Coalition to Promote the Safety of People and Canines (CPSPC)

Me Julius H. Grey

Lawyer Grey Casgrain s.e.n.c.

Co-Founder, The Coalition to Promote the Safety of People and Canines (CPSPC)

Sabrina Sabbah

Founder Association Velvet Hearts

Co-Founder, The Coalition to Promote the Safety of People and Canines (CPSPC)

Read also: [The Hammer Comes Down on Dog Breeds and Permits](#)

Dr Lissa Altschuler

Veterinary Medicine, Vetspress

Liliana Benitez

Zootherapy

Mégane Bigot de La Touanne

PPB Team

Sophie Bienvenu

Laureate and Author



Marie-Josée Carrière
Writer

Ewa Demianowicz
Campaign Manager, Humane Society International – Canada

Sterling Downey
City Councillor, Verdun

Ariane Duplessis
Biologist, Animex

Dr. Florence Erdmann
DVM, IPSAV, Pierrefonds Animal Hospital

Jennifer Gailis
MSc, CTC, Animal Trainer and Well-being Consultant

Andrée Gibeault
Animal Health Technician, Animex

Dr Amanda Glew
Veterinary Medicine, Timberlea Veterinary Clinic

Me Anne-France Goldwater
Goldwater, Dubé

Me Geneviève Grey
Grey Casgrain s.e.n.c.

Me Julius Grey
Grey Casgrain s.e.n.c.

Me Linda Hammerschmid
Hammerschmid & Associés, Author and Member of CPAT

Zina Hussein
MSc Biology, Co-Founder Association Velvet Hearts

Dr Sébastien Kfoury
DMV, IPSAV, President of Groupe Vétéri-médic and Director of Veterinary Services for Centre vétérinaire Rive-Sud, Centre vétérinaire Laval, St-Eustache/Deux-Montagnes Veterinary Hospital and Blainville Veterinary Hospital

Zuzanna Kubica
Canine Trainer and Behaviour Consultant CoeurCanin, V.P. of Regroupement Québécois des Intervenants en Éducation Canin

Sébastien Larabée
Canine Trainer

Anouk Laurent
Lawyer, Founder of the Vanilla Refuge to set-up a shelter for the homeless and their pets in Montreal



Caroline Leblanc

Founder Solidarité dans la Rue, Candidate M.A Social Work

Jean Lessard

Canine Trainer, MCP (CDT) affiliated with Centre vétérinaire Rive-Sud and Cofounder of Regroupement québécois des intervenants en éducation canine (RQIEC)

Dr Isabelle Pinard

Veterinary Medicine

Erika-May Poulin-Pasmore

Zootherapy

Jessica Pilon

Law student and V.P Events, FEDJA

Dr James Rassi

Veterinary Medicine

Sabrina Sabbah

Founder Association Velvet Hearts

Ève Surprenant

Bio-ecology Technician, Animex

Johanne Tassé

Founder CaacQ

Visit the [Velvet Hearts Facebook Page](#)

Read also: [The Hammer Comes Down: Is Reimbursement Due?](#)

Feature image: [Carly Jane Casper](#) via [StockPholio.com](#)

Category

1. Animal Welfare
2. Animals | Pets

Tags

1. animal control
2. chiens
3. CPSPC
4. dogs
5. gestion animalière
6. law
7. loi
8. pets
9. pit bulls
10. protection du public
11. public safety



Date Created
September 2016