

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION URGES REPEAL OF ALL BREED-SPECIFIC LAWS

On August 6, 2012, the American Bar Association (ABA) House of Delegates meeting at the 2012 ABA convention approved a resolution urging “all state, territorial, and local legislative bodies and governmental agencies [. . .] to repeal breed discriminatory or breed specific provisions.”

This comprehensive recommendation is accompanied by an extensive report detailing the legion of problems associated with breed specific regulation, including significant questions of due process; waste of government resources; documented failure to produce safer communities; enforcement issues connected with identifying the dogs to be regulated or seized; and infringement of property rights.

The ABA, founded in 1878, considers itself to be the world’s largest voluntary professional organization, with some 400,000 members. In addition to being dedicated to accrediting the nation’s law schools and providing practical resources for legal professionals, the ABA prides itself in working to improve the administration of justice.

In addition to urging repeal of all breed specific regulations, Resolution 100 endorses “breed neutral dangerous dog/reckless owner laws that ensure due process protections for owners, encourage responsible pet ownership and focus on the behavior of both individual dog owner and dogs[.]“

With the passage of Resolution 100, the ABA adds its name to the long list of national organizations that oppose breed specific regulation and/or urge repeal, including the American Veterinary Medical Association and the National Animal Control Association, the association of animal services professionals charged with enforcing the nation’s animal ordinances.

ABA Resolution 100 can be viewed in full here:

http://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/administrative/mental_physical_disability/Resolution_100.authcheckdam.pdf