

# Great Lakes American Pit Bull Terrier Association

G R E A T L A K E S A M E R I C A N P I T B U L L T E R R I E R A S S O C I A T I O N

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Positive Pitty Press: Pit Bull Takes Bullet for Family
- Positive Pitty Press: Pit Bull Saves Family From Intruder
- BSL in Michigan
- BSL around the Country
- Pit-ty Myth-Busters

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## FAMILY DOG TAKES BULLET TO SAVE FAMILY

12/9/2008  
By Amy Lester, News 9

Oklahoma City — A family dog made a lifesaving move when the family needed him most.

The pit bull is more than a friend, even more than a companion and family members said he's the reason they're alive.

The family's hero is their pit bull, D-boy.

Roberta Trawick was sitting on the couch when a man busted in through the front door.

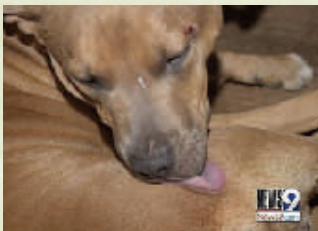
"He came in, pointed a gun at me and said, 'Get down on the ground'," Trawick said.

The next thing Roberta knew, D-boy ran in from another room, ready to attack.

"I was too scared to move, I didn't know what to think," Trawick said.

But before D-boy could get a hold of the intruder, the man started shoot-

ing.  
"I seen him shoot the dog twice," Trawick said, "He shot him once in the head and he was still going after him and the guy shot him again."



<http://www.news9.com/global/story.asp?s=9494086>

D-boy was shot three times, altogether. The intruder, apparently spooked, took off out the front door.

"It is amazing, it's amazing that he went after that guy, and that I still have a family," family member Angelic Shoemaker said.

The family has no idea why the man broke in or how D-boy survived.

"The vet said if it wasn't for his hard head he wouldn't be here," Trawick said. "He's got a hard head."

The hard headed pit bull was determined to protect his family, and a family that owes a debt of gratitude to their four legged friend.

"I'm sorry my dog got shot, but I still got my family and we still got our dog," Shoemaker said.

The family now faces another obstacle. They don't have enough money to pay D-boy's medical bills. So far, they owe around \$1,500.

Police are still looking for the man who shot the family dog. If you have any information, call Crimestoppers at 405-235-7300.

## PIT BULL SAVES FAMILY FROM INTRUDER

Sacramento(CBS13) - A single mother and her five children were saved from an intruder by their pit bull, which attacked and chased off the suspect.

According to police, 29-year-old Jeremiah Taylor broke

through a glass door into the room of 13-year-old Emanuel Sosa at around 10:30 pm Monday. Taylor acted violently, striking Emanuel and the walls of the bedroom, when Baby, the Sosa's one-year-old pit bull, jumped into the fray.

"I hit him back...and that's when my dog jumped up on my bed and attacked him," Emanuel said. "I said, 'Get him Baby.'"

Emanuel's mother, Aurora, confronted the intruder and

Cont on next page.... ->

## PIT BULL SAVES FAMILY FROM INTRUDER CONT'

And told him to get out, and Taylor reportedly took off, bursting through their fence and scrambling down the streets. Sacramento police officers spotted a man matching the description from the Sosas—and was also suffering from a number of bite wounds.

Police arrested Taylor, who didn't get any valuables from the house.

The Sosas say they're moving out of their house, but they have to give Baby away, because the place they're moving to won't allow pets her size.



**Baby the pit bull**

*“Education is the key to  
fighting ignorance”*

ALLEN PARK, MI.

This one was a tough fight, everyone. Allen Park proposed an outright ban of any dog resembling an American Pit Bull Terrier. All of these dogs would have had to be removed from the city.

After weeks of speaking with city council members a compromise was reached.

- Council Member Tertzag introduced a resolution to make their shelter a no kill shelter. He indicated that he would be seeking the help of local rescue groups to help in that effort.
- Council Member Tertzag asked that the dangerous dog/potentially dangerous dog ordinance which was introduced closely resemble the Wyandotte ordinance. It passed unanimously.
- The “pit bull ban” was passed with Council Member O'Rourke being the only dissenting vote. The compromised ordinance, while not being great, is still better than an outright ban.

The general sense taken from the meeting was that they would look at the numbers after one year and then revisit the issue. GLAPBTA offered to help in any way it

## BSL IN MICHIGAN

can.

Bob Darden briefly spoke with Renee Cizio of the local newspaper. Her comment, was that it was the persistence of the Allen Park residents that really made the change in the ordinance a reality.

A huge thanks to all the residents as well as to Mike Davis and Bob Darden for all their hard work and dedication in working with the City Council members.

Per Bob Darden's review of the ordinance, here are the general changes from the original proposed ban to what was agreed upon:

1. No longer an outright ban
2. Does not contain all of the myths
3. Addition of the American Bulldog and a longer ordinance

4. CGC exemption has been added. STAR for puppies.
5. There is a sunset clause of five (5) years
6. Provision to review the ordinance after two(2) years. Council Member Flynn, the most outspoken on the ban, suggested a review after one(1) year
7. Removal of AKC and UKC reference in respect to breed characteristics.
8. Identification of the breed is left up to a veterinarian approved by the city.
9. Does not address the neighbor issue

Not great, but not a ban, so it is still a win. Every victory, great or small, is still a victory. Thanks for all your hard work!

NEW 01/21/2009: Berkeley, MI kennel ordinance

## BSL AROUND THE COUNTRY

BELTSVILLE, MARYLAND (Prince George's County)

As many of you know, Akiva and I were working hard to get into all three levels of Agility All-Stars in 2008. We were also shooting for the the #2 spot for AGI and had a couple of dogs on our tails. As many of you also know, Akiva was off for 5 months of the year with injury and recovery from being spayed. Towards the end of year we had decided to try to do some non-local trials where we knew our local competition would not be gaining points.

I registered for the trial. Then I went in search of the premium which was not linked on UKC's site. I ended up finding it thru some web searching under another club's website (the club hosting the agility club's event). I opened the premium only to find, in bold letters, on the front page:

**"This club has received authorization from Prince George's County to allow American Pit Bull Terriers and Staffordshire Bull Terriers attend this event."**

All I could say is "Wow" and I emailed Mike about it. The next thing I did was email UKC events.

Isn't this something of vital importance to the event that should be posted in the listings? The response from UKC was that yes, it is of great importance to the event and they were unaware this. However, it is up to the hosting club to put these things on their applications so that it can be listed on the website. Note to self: Make sure you know where you are traveling to.

So now my stomach was turning....I had sent in the registration, made my hotel and airline reservations, rented a car...but I wasn't about to put my baby girl in danger...



I called the Prince George's County Animal Control and inquired about the situation as well as to let them know I would be in their county for a couple of days with her and wanted to know what I needed to do to make sure she wasn't seized. I was informed that if a club has been given special permission from the County then they would have received a letter. I would need to carry with me a copy of that letter, her current vaccinations, tags, etc and ensure that she was on a leash at all time when in public.

I then emailed the club secretary and asked her to mail me a hard copy of the letter thru regular mail as well as to email a copy so that I could carry that with me. The letter came two days before I had to leave. Whew!

Thankfully, Akiva is a registered service animal and is able to fly in the cabin with me....I would have been much more unnerved if I would have had to check her.

For the most part everyone was thrilled to meet her. There were those who greeted her with open arms and ear scratches, those who shied away because of her breed, and one guy who worked for the airline spent a good ten minutes barking at her while we waited for our luggage (no, seriously). I believe he was trying to get some kind of reaction out of her or get her to bark back. She just stared at him, looked at me, stared at him and then turned her back on the crazy person.

When we got to the trial I set up our

*"Regardless of size or breed, all dogs can bite if provoked."*

*Responsible pet ownership is key to reducing the likelihood of a bite and can enhance the owner/dog relationship."*

*American Veterinary Medical Association*

area. I had traveled with our soft crate since it fit in my suitcase. The trial secretary then informed me that, due to the restrictions on the breed, I would have to have her in a hard airline crate to prevent her "escaping". So they lent me a crate.

After the trial, I took her to PetSmart where everyone we met felt the need to tell me that APBT's were banned in the county. Thanks, I know. She has special permission. But no one was afraid of her. No one. Everyone came up to meet her. Santa even asked her to sit on his lap so he could pet her. The one thing everyone we met agreed upon was that the ban was unfair because the problem was the owners and not the dogs. Thank you, Prince George's County for that.

By the way, Akiva did end up the # 2 dog in AGI and broke every record for her breed in 2008, except for one. We'll work on that this year. And maybe we'll even go back to Maryland. Maybe the more people who are exposed to what the breed truly is will someday make a difference.



**G R E A T L A K E S  
A M E R I C A N P I T B U L L  
T E R R I E R  
A S S O C I A T I O N**

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The Great Lakes American Pit Bull Terrier Association is a group of responsible individuals exercising our right to own, enjoy, and love the dog breed of our choice. Our dogs are productive, active members of society participating in Conformation, Therapy Dog work, Service Dog work, Search & Rescue, Educational programs, Obedience, Agility, Weight Pull and many other activities.

We fully support reasonable, non-breed specific, dangerous dog laws; laws that protect responsible owner's rights and promote a safe community for all residents. GLAPBTA does NOT support ANY form of breed specific legislation (BSL), which targets specific breeds for restrictions or bans. We know that BSL is ineffective, costly to residents, and unfair to responsible dog owners.

## M Y T H S

E V E R Y I S S U E W E W I L L E X P L O R E A N O T H E R A P B T M Y T H

### **A PIT BULL THAT SHOWS AGGRESSION TOWARDS AN ANIMAL WILL GO FOR PEOPLE NEXT.**

"Many working breeds have antipathy towards other animals—coonhounds go mad at the sight of a raccoon, foxhounds will not hesitate to tear a dog-like fox to shreds, greyhounds live to chase and maul rabbits and even dog-like coyotes. Even the ever-friendly beagle will slaughter a rabbit, given the chance.

And yet they greyhound, coon and foxhound and beagle are among the friendliest of breeds towards humans. And it is the same with the pit bull dog. His work through the years has been control of other animals—never humans. A correct pit bull is more often

than not submissive toward all humans, and adores children.

A pit bull that snarls, lunges or growls at non-threatening humans is NOT typical of the breed." (Written by Diane Jessup)

Pit Bulls that do show aggressive behavior towards **humans** are not typical of the breed and should be humanely euthanized.

### **TREADMILLS ARE ONLY USED TO GET DOGS READY TO FIGHT**

Many responsible owners utilize treadmills to help exercise their dogs. This is useful in places where weather prevents outdoor exercise, or in situations where off-leash exercise is not an option.

The treadmill is used by people that show their Pit Bulls, and do sporting activities like weight pull and agility to help keep their dogs in shape. Because Pit Bulls are athletic animals, responsibly using a treadmill can help them be healthier and happier.