

Families and Dogs against Fighting Breeds

Contact: Ellen Taft

(206) 323-0599

WA Municipalities Autonomy to Regulate Dangerous Dogs threatened by HB 2117

25 out of 32 Dog Bite Related Fatalities involved Pit-bulls in 2013

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On Thursday, January 16th, members of FDAFB.org and concerned citizens will be attending the **House Judiciary Committee Meeting** in Olympia, WA. State Representative Sherry Appleton (D-Poulsbo) will introduce House Bill 2117, which would amend the state's dangerous dog law and prohibit local government from banning possession of a particular breed or declaring a specific breed of dog to be dangerous or potentially dangerous.

Pit-bulls were selectively bred to fight other dogs to the death in a fighting pit. Dog fighting is a felony in all 50 states. Pit-bulls and other fighting breeds endanger the lives of humans and other dogs, as well as livestock.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, 357,629 people were treated in emergency rooms for dog related injuries in 2012, in addition, there were 9,500 people hospitalized with severe dog attack injuries.

Furthermore, twenty-five out of 32 Dog-Bite-Related-Fatalities in 2013, were caused by Pit-bulls, that is 78%. Non-fatal Pit-bull attacks, often involve broken bones because of the strength of their jaws. In 2013, no Chihuahuas, Yorkshire Terriers, Toy Poodles, Pugs, Shih Tzu, Pomeranians, Pekingese, or Maltese were involved in Dog Bite Related Fatalities.

Unlike Poulsbo, densely populated cities like Seattle and Tacoma have high levels of crime; criminals often use Pit-bulls legally as weapons, instead of guns. This bill threatens the autonomy of municipalities to respond effectively to local conditions. It also threatens the police, who often have to deal with a pack of pit-bulls before they can make an arrest as well as firemen, who often have to go into a burning house only to encounter loose uncontrollable Pit-bulls before they can begin saving human lives.

Many countries all over the world, and cities in Washington State have placed restrictions on Pit-bulls and other fighting breeds. All dogs are not the same, Pit-bulls have proven to have the capacity to maul, maim and kill, Chihuahuas have not.

“Let each municipality regulate their own Animal control policies.” Says Ellen Taft

The Committee Meeting is:

House Judiciary Committee Meeting

Date:

Tuesday, January 16th, 2014 Time: 8:00am Location:

House Hearing Room A,
John L. O'Brien Building,
504 15th Ave SE,
Olympia, WA 98501

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?bill=2117&year=2013>

Members of the Committee

Jinkins, Laurie (D) Chair	JLOB 311	(360) 786-7930
Hansen, Drew (D) Vice Chair	JLOB 369	(360) 786-7842
Rodne, Jay (R) *	JLOB 430	(360) 786-7852
Nealey, Terry (R) **	JLOB 404	(360) 786-7828
Goodman, Roger (D)	LEG 436B	(360) 786-7878
Hope, Mike (R)	JLOB 466	(360) 786-7892
Kirby, Steve (D)	LEG 437B	(360) 786-7996
Klippert, Brad (R)	JLOB 410	(360) 786-7882
Muri, Dick (R)	JLOB 424	(360) 786-7890
Orwall, Tina (D)	JLOB 326	(360) 786-7834
Roberts, Mary Helen (D)	JLOB 420	(360) 786-7950
Shea, Matt (R)	JLOB 437	(360) 786-7984
Walkinshaw, Brady (D)	JLOB 328	(360) 786-7826