



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 365</b>		DATE: <b>2/18/2021</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Local Government</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>ANDY BRISCOE</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-248-9136</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>(ASPCA) AMERICAN SOCIETY OF THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>5111 DEER VALLEY DRIVE, A</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65109</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/18/2021 12:00 AM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>ARNIE "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>ArnieDienoff@Yahoo.Com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/18/2021 1:34 AM</b>	
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I Support this Bill. The State shall retain and secure decision of Breeds of Dogs on a State-Level.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>BARB YORK</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>417-448-9484</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>MISSOURI ANIMAL HUSBANDRY ASSOCIATION</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>P.O. BOX 554</b>			
CITY: <b>ELDON</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>64744</b>
EMAIL: <b>barbyork07@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/17/2021 4:12 PM</b>	

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Currently there are 22 states that have legislation against the banning of specific dogs solely on breed alone. Dogs should be judged by their actions alone and not their breed. Families have had face the trauma of giving up (or euthanizing) a beloved pet due to the looks of the animal. We fully support this legislation as written and would like to see Missouri join those states protecting family and their pets from unnecessary separation.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>BRENT TOELLNER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>Brent.toellner@gmail.com</b>		ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/17/2021 3:33 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

Dear Chairman Hannegan and House Local Government Committee, The fundamental goal is safe and humane communities. We all want Missouri communities to be protected against dangerous dogs -- and we want abused dogs to be protected from reckless owners. This is why I urge the committee and the House to support of HB 365 to stop local city councils from infringing on a Missouri citizens' rights to own and care for whatever breed of pet dog they choose. Breed discriminatory dog laws fail to enhance public safety, are expensive to enforce, and interfere with responsible dog owners' property rights. Uniformity is needed. A citizen shouldn't have to give up their pet just because they move into a new town, or be fined just because they inadvertently walk their pet dog from one city limit into another city. Further, the laws are subjective. Over the years of working in animal welfare, I have helped countless citizens as they face the possibility of their pet being confiscated, or potentially even killed, because the dog they never thought looked like a pit bull was declared one by a city official. It is heartbreaking as people are forced to frantically navigate local law and politics to save a beloved pet's life -- all because it looked like a targeted breed. In addition, local governments that interfere with citizens' property rights through breed-discriminatory provisions have the burden of proving the heritage of individual pets and providing constitutional due process protections before seizing and housing them. As a result, the costs for enforcement go well beyond the traditional role of animal control services (to target the actual behavior of individual dogs) and into other, more costly areas of local government, frequently involving expensive and lengthy litigation. During the court proceedings, municipalities are responsible for picking up the tab for housing the dog until the trial and appeal are concluded. Enforcing a breed-discriminatory laws, then, can ultimately deplete the limited resources of Missouri municipalities. The National Animal Care and Control Association (NACA), the American Bar Association (ABA), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) and the International Municipal Lawyers Association (IMLA) all oppose breed discriminatory laws. Dangerous dog laws should focus on the behavior of the dog and the behavior of the individual. Local Missouri ordinances should protect people and pets through a culture of safety, personal responsibility, and individual accountability. At least 29 communities in Missouri have repealed these archaic laws over the past decade as the failures and over-reach of these laws have become documented. But these repeals often come at great expense in time and money to Missouri's citizens. Please protect Missouri's freedom and help make Missouri the 23rd state to pass a provision against breed discriminatory legislation. Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Sincerely, Brent Toellner Sr. Director, National Programs Best Friends Animal Society Missouri Resident. Long-time Animal Welfare Professional.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>CHARLES ANDY ARNOLD</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>636-745-3933</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>STRAY DOG POLICY</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>PO BOX 161</b>			
CITY: <b>WRIGHT CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63390</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/18/2021 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>ERIN GARRISON</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>ANIMAL JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA</b>		TITLE: <b>CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER</b>
ADDRESS:		
CITY: <b>LEE'S SUMMIT</b>	STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>64082</b>
EMAIL: <b>erin.garrison@animaljla.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/17/2021 9:42 PM</b>
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Twenty-two states have already passed legislation that prevents communities from enacting redundant and ineffective breed-specific legislation, while still empowering them to create comprehensive dangerous dog ordinances. Comprehensive dangerous dog ordinances cover all dangerous dogs, regardless of breed. Breed-specific legislation adds an additional, discriminatory level of regulation that restricts the freedom of citizens to choose what type of dog they own. Such legislation has been proven to be ineffective at multiple levels. Because of this, the American Bar Association, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the American Veterinary Medical Association, the National Animal Control and Care Association, the National Canine Research Council, and many other major accredited organizations conclude that dangerous dog ordinances WITHOUT additional, burdensome breed-specific regulation are the path to improved public safety and resource utilization. Breed-specific legislation does not reduce dog bites or increase safety, but compliance to it encroaches on individual rights and often increases the cost to taxpayers. While there's sufficient and significant evidence that breed-specific legislation does not work, there is no evidence that it does. Thankfully, we now have many years worth of evidence and experience regarding breed-specific legislation compared to all-encompassing dangerous dog ordinances. The evidence from communities is conclusive: there are no improvements in public safety after having instituted additional breed-specific legislation, as all dogs, pitbulls included, are covered under dangerous dog ordinances. Because of the facts, and based on recommendations from the American Bar Association, the CDC, the American Veterinary Medical Association, and the many other leading organizations, I encourage you to vote in favor of preventing villages, towns, and cities from regulating dogs in a breed-specific manner.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>HEATH CLARKSTON</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>5734964173</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>MISSOURI VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>314 E. HIGH ST.</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL: <b>heath.clarkston@lgpmconsulting.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/15/2021 10:28 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>KAREN STRANGE</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-480-2389</b>
REPRESENTING: <b>MISSOURI FEDERATION OF ANIMAL OWNERS</b>		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>P.O. BOX 554</b>		
CITY: <b>ELDON</b>	STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65026</b>
EMAIL: <b>kjeeper@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/17/2021 8:23 PM</b>

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**We are in support of this important piece of legislation. We have a number of dog owners in our organization who have breeds affected by Breed Specific Legislation. It is heartbreaking to receive calls from frantic owners whose dogs are being removed from their homes and families simply because they are a specific breed or resemble one. Any dog of any breed can be dangerous but not every dog of a particular dog is dangerous. Proper breeding, training and socialization is paramount to having a well behaved dog. We believe that cities and municipalities may enact dangerous dog legislation to address the actions of dogs but do not believe that dogs should be banned based on breed alone. We respectfully request that you please Vote Yes on HB365. Thank you, Karen Strange, President Missouri Federation of Animal Owners**





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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>KATIE BARNETT</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>816-683-1383</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>KANSAS CITY PET PROJECT</b>		TITLE: <b>ATTORNEY</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>7077 ELMWOOD AVE.</b>			
CITY: <b>KANSAS CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>64132</b>
EMAIL: <b>katie@barnettlawoffice.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/17/2021 5:33 PM</b>	

**THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.**

Chairman and Members of the Committee, I represent Kansas City Pet Project, a 501c3, nonprofit charitable organization operating the Kansas City, Missouri Animal Shelter. We are the contracted agency enforcing the city code of ordinances for animals and caring for all impounded animals. We work to increase the number of homeless pets adopted, enhance public safety, and focus on lifesaving programs promoting pet retention. KC Pet Project supports HB365, which continues to give local governments and enforcement agencies like ours the authority to regulate dogs within their jurisdiction, so long as the ordinance or policy is not specific to the breed of dog. In 2020, KC Pet Project cared for 5,234 dogs (and over 11,000 animals), making it the largest shelter in the Greater Kansas City Metro area. As Kansas City's only open-access shelter, we serve the highest population of animals in the area, and we also have the highest adoption rate. KC Pet Project sees first-hand the greatest negative impact that local breed-specific ordinances and policies have on the shelter, animal control, and residents. American Staffordshire Terriers, Staffordshire Bull Terriers, American Pit Bull Terriers, and mixes of all these breeds are the most frequently banned dog in communities in Missouri, but also one of the most popular breeds in the country. As such, in 2020, over 30% of KC Pet Project's annual dog intakes were breeds that are either restricted in Kansas City, where a mandatory spay/neuter law is in effect, or banned in several of the surrounding communities in the greater metro area. Once in our shelter, we take a behavior-based approach to assessing which animals are suitable for adoption and which animals should not, responsibly, be placed in the community. All dogs are held to the same behavior standards, regardless of breed or appearance. This approach allows our staff to look at each individual animal's behavior from an objective perspective, with successful placements in new homes as our primary goal. For the last 7 years, KC Pet Project has conducted a dog-to-dog playgroup program to facilitate enrichment to the dogs at the shelter. Approximately 60-80 dogs participate in playgroups daily, thousands of dog-to-dog interactions annually, with over 5,000 individual dogs each year. The playgroup program easily dispels the myth that certain breeds are more dangerous; these animals interact with a variety of other animals as well as a diverse group of staff and volunteers daily with little or no incident. We have interacted with tens of thousands of dogs over the years and find no significant correlation between the way a dog looks and its propensity to be safe in a community. Further, it is incredibly difficult for our team to define the predominant breed of a mixed breed dog, so it is illogical for our organization to use breed as a factor for policy decisions. Our shelter takes in an exponential number of dogs that are banned breeds because families are moving from a city where their dog is allowed to a city where their dog is banned and cannot take the dog with them. The dog who otherwise had a good home is then in our shelter, expending organizational and tax-payer resources, instead of moving to a new city with his family. This is one of the many reasons why the state of Missouri should step in. Families rely on the state legislature to protect their property

interests by preventing local government overreach. Laws that regulate what your personal property can look like is the epitome of government overreach. Additionally, these local breed specific laws have an adverse effect on travel, economic growth, and local development for cities throughout the state of Missouri. Bordering states of Illinois and Oklahoma have enacted laws similar to HB365, along with 20 other states in the nation. House Bill 365 will make interstate travel and relocation easier for families of these neighboring states and for families within the state of Missouri. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions whatsoever. Teresa Johnson, Executive Director

[Teresa.Johnson@kcpetproject.org](mailto:Teresa.Johnson@kcpetproject.org) Katie Barnett, Counsel

[Katie@barnettlawoffice.com](mailto:Katie@barnettlawoffice.com)



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>KIM M KROHN</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>816-830-0573</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>MISSOURI FEDERATION OF ANIMAL OWNERS</b>		TITLE: <b>DIRECTOR OF BREED SPECIFIC LEGISLATION, MOFED</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>4600 SOUTHWEST HICKORY LANE</b>			
CITY: <b>BLUE SPRINGS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>64015</b>
EMAIL: <b>krohndog@swbell.net</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/17/2021 4:19 PM</b>	

**THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.**

My name is Kim Krohn and I have lobbied with the Missouri Federation of Animal Owners for over 25 years. Most of my lobbying has been at the municipal level. I have been involved in trying to educate lawmakers and the public about responsible dog ownership since the 1980s and belong to several dog organizations and clubs. I've owned American Pit Bull Terriers/American Staffordshire Terriers and Miniature Bull Terriers for 40 years and have trained my dogs for competitive performance sports for nearly 30 years. • Municipalities often view banning specific breeds of dogs as a public safety issue. In reality, it amounts to the criminalization of non-criminal behavior. When people move into a community, they should have a reasonable expectation as to what constitutes criminal behavior. It's unreasonable to expect law-abiding taxpayers to consider the breed or type of dog they own might be restricted or even illegal. This deprives owners of property rights. Currently, about 20 states have passed laws to protect those rights for responsible dog ownership. • Criminalizing ownership of certain breeds of dogs and even placing restrictions on said breeds, such as requiring spaying/neutering, only places more of a burden on local shelters and humane societies when perfectly good dogs are removed from homes due to municipal code violations. It also distracts Animal Control departments from more important duties, which is a waste of time and money. Ordinances usually have more to do with false perceptions about the owners and controlling them rather than controlling the dogs. • Non-discriminatory, generic dangerous dog laws such as those for which HB 365 allows provide for public safety. BSL provides a false sense of security. Current MO statutes provide for regulation of dangerous/biting dogs. • Professional canine organizations (for example, the AVMA) and canine registries support generic dangerous dog laws and ordinances that are fairly enforced. • On behalf of the Missouri Federation of Animal Owners, I support HB 365 and ask each of you to lend your support to this bill.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>LEDY VANKAVAGE</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>6185509469</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>BEST FRIENDS ANIMAL SOCIETY</b>		TITLE: <b>SR. LEGISLATIVE ATTORNEY</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>51 ODOM DR</b>			
CITY: <b>COLLINSVILLE</b>		STATE: <b>IL</b>	ZIP: <b>62234</b>
EMAIL: <b>ledyv@bestfriends.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/16/2021 12:25 PM</b>	

**THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.**

Testimony In Support of MO HB 365 Protects Property Rights of Missouri Dog Owners Good morning Chairman Hannegan, and honorable members of the Committee. Thank you for taking the time to consider this important bill to protect the rights of all Missourians from local government overreach. Twenty-two states including South Dakota, Oklahoma and Texas have passed similar bills. My name is Ledy VanKavage, I'm the Senior Legislative Attorney for Best Friends Animal Society and a past chair of the American Bar Association's Tort, Trial, and Insurance Practice's Animal Law Committee. I also coauthored the ABA Book, A Lawyer's Guide to Dangerous Dog Issues. In 2012 the American Bar Association's House of Delegates passed a resolution calling for the repeal of all breed specific or breed discriminatory ordinances and for the enactment of comprehensive breed neutral dangerous dog and reckless owner provisions that provide due process protections for pet owners. Nationally, we are seeing a trend against breed specific laws because of the numerous legal deficiencies associated with these provisions. Many of these ordinances not only violate an individual's right to due process but they also violate the Americans with Disabilities Act. This leads to expensive and unnecessary litigation for cities. Indeed, in 2018 the International Municipal Lawyer's Association updated their model dangerous dog ordinance and got rid of their breed prohibition. The focus of any law should be on the behavior of the owner and the behavior of the dog. Why should local governments focus on behavior instead of breed? Uniformity is needed. Currently in Missouri any local government can ban any breed of dog at any time. In essence, your pet German Shepherd sleeping at the foot of your bed could be legal one day and illegal the next. If you walked your Doberman across one city line into another city's limits you could be ticketed. A disgruntled neighbor could decide that your mutt was a banned breed and send police officers to knock on your door. Granted, we have a responsibility to keep our communities safe. No exceptions. However, breed bans fail to enhance public safety. That is why the American Veterinary Medical Society, the CDC and the National Animal Control Association do not support breed bans. In addition to being ineffective, breed bans waste taxpayer dollars because they are extremely expensive to enforce. For example, if St. Charles County, the home of the Chairman, enacted a breed ban according to economist John Dunham and Associates it would cost the County more than \$525,156 a year. This fiscal impact includes costs for animal control enforcement, food, kenneling, vet care, euthanasia, body disposal, DNA testing to determine the breed of the dog, and litigation costs. In addition to the fiscal impact, these provisions are not popular with constituents who value freedom. According to a nationwide poll conducted by the Luntz Global group, 84% of Americans believe that the local, state, or federal government should not dictate the breed of dog a citizen can own. This is America. Every responsible dog owner should be allowed to own whatever breed of dog they choose – it's that simple. For example, we don't let counties tell our cattle ranchers, "you can keep those Angus, but those Herefords have got to go." In essence, this bill simply boils

down to a citizen's right to own a pet dog in Missouri without the local government trampling on that right. It's up to us to protect the property rights of the citizens of Missouri. Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely, Ledy VanKavage Sr. Legislative Attorney [Ledyv@bestfriends.org](mailto:Ledyv@bestfriends.org)



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>SHANE RUDMAN</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>816-588-7371</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>ANIMAL JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>2250 SW STATE RT 150</b>			
CITY: <b>LEE'S SUMMIT</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65082</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/18/2021 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>TONY DUGGER</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>417-259-1915</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>MISSOURI PET BREEDERS ASSOCIATION</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>730 WEST MAIN</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/18/2021 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>RICHARD SHEETD</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-635-9134</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>MISSOURI MUNICIPAL LEAGUE</b>		TITLE: <b>INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>1727 SOUTHRIDGE DRIVE</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65109</b>
EMAIL: <b>rsheets@mocities.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/16/2021 3:07 PM</b>	
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**Regulation of dogs is a tradition municipal activity that is best left to local official who are better informed of local issues surrounding dogs. The Missouri Municipal League has long encouraged cities to enact vicious dog ordinance, but there are times when other measures are warranted.**