



StubbyDog™
Rediscover the pit bull.

Service, Freedom & Pit Bulls

A veteran speaks out against breed-discriminatory laws

By Joseph Myers



I first learned about breed-discriminatory laws a couple years ago when my wife and I got invited to a cousin's wedding in the Midwest. I rented a van so that my mother-in-law and our two adopted pit bull mixes could all go along for the trip. We live in Southern California, so the journey was going to be more than 2,000 miles. My wife immediately got on the Internet and started to look up the breed-specific laws of different cities and states.

I was a bit naïve on subject. She informed me that pit bull-type dogs are banned in hundreds of cities and counties across the country and that taking our dogs into these areas could be illegal. Our dogs could even be seized.

I never would have thought that breed profiling existed in the United States and would infringe on my freedom and the freedom of my loved ones. They say that those of us who serve in the military protect our freedom here at home. It upsets me that I don't have the freedom to travel with my family (which includes my dogs) or to live in many parts of this country simply because of how my dogs look.

My family, including myself, have served this country all the way back to the American Revolution. I had ancestors that died in the Civil War. My great-grandfather got a Congressional Medal of Honor for valor while wounded during the Philippine Insurrection. Both my grandfathers served during World War II. One served in the North Atlantic in the Navy. He suffered from shrapnel wounds. My dad served during Vietnam. I served during Desert Storm. I love our country, and because I love it so much, I feel the need to speak out against things I believe are wrong. I find it ludicrous that in many cities and counties our government is telling us what types of dogs we can bring into our families. I can't even take my dogs to Colorado, where my mom lives. The irony of all this is that breed-specific laws have been proven ineffective at making cities safer, so they aren't accomplishing anything and are causing a great deal of hardship.

My wife has trained our dog, Omega, to be a therapy dog for the elderly. This is the most loving dog I've ever had. Breed profiling is not based on behavior, it is based on hatred and fear! Dogs are a reflection of their owners, and generalizations about breeds don't work. If we continue down this road of regulating breeds rather than irresponsible owners, what breed is next to be banned? Our leaders should make laws based on what will be most effective—what will truly make a community a better and safer place—not based on fear and prejudice.

I may no longer be serving in our Armed Forces, but I plan on continuing to fight for the American ideals of freedom by being an advocate for the breed once known as America's dog.



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Military People and Their Dogs



I am retired Army served from 1984-2004. And I have a rescue from Orlando SPCA, his name is Sergeant Barry, he is a red nose pittie. Love him to death.

~ Michael Barry

My husband is active duty Air Force and we have a Italian greyhound/min poodle mix and a pit bull!

~ Abbey McMahon Lindauer

US Navy from 03-07. I was an Aviation Ordnanceman, means I built the bombs and missiles that go on the jets. Did a nine-month deployment onboard the USS Eisenhower (CVN-69) I have a 2-year-old spoiled rotten AmStaff and I love her to death!

~ Kyle Kincaid

My spouse is a Navy JAG, and he is currently on an IA with the Army in Afghanistan. He helps to process detainees and hold courts martial there. We have a rescued long-haired German shepherd, a rescued pit bull (former bait dog), and another rescued pit bull (former fighter). We also foster and rehab both breeds.

~ Erin King

My husband is retired army, we have two rescued pibbles.

~ Kerri Koker

I was in the USAF for 11 years. I call it my growing up years. I really did enjoy being in the military. While in the military I had my dog Nala. Nala was a mutt that passed away of old age some time ago. I currently have a Doberman, named Tank, and a mini-dachshund named Harley!

~ Cindi Friedli Ashbeck

Spouse is Canadian Navy, 18 years in, and we have a pit bull from a Canadian pit bull rescue (HugABull) and a Chihuahua we adopted from the local SPCA.

~ Kirsta Thorleifson

I'm active duty USAF and my wife and I have a big rotten spoiled baby of a pit bull and a cocker spaniel/shepherd mix.

~ Brian Edward



Photo by Melissa Lipani



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My husband and I were both in the Army and got out about three years ago – I was Military Intelligence and he was a Blackhawk pilot. We have two rescue pups (pit mix and a lab mix) and a foster American bulldog/pit bull mix!

~ Sara Galvin Biroshak

Coast Guard '65-69 Guess that makes me the old man in the crowd. Vietnam service '67-'68. Three standard poodles – two on the show circuit, one just the lovable old man.

~ Tom Mahoney

My husband was an MP stationed in Iwakuni before going on the MSG program. He just finished his reserve time a couple months ago. We have a Canaan, a bully mix, and a Pembroke welsh corgi, all rescues.

~ Laura Gilpin

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~ Laura Gilpin

My husband Cory Grimm was a SSgt. in the Air Force and we were stationed in North Pole, Alaska at Eielson Air Force Base. He served in OEF and OIF and traveled all over the world. Today we're settled in to Pennsylvania, he's out of the service and he and our dog Moose the pit bull therapy dog spend time volunteering in the community.

~ Jasmine Grimm

I served in the Navy during Desert Storm, working on the flight deck. My family has served in virtually every major war since the American Revolution. We have two adopted pit mixes.

~ Joe Myers

My boyfriend is a Marine and served seven months in Iraq. We have two Staffordshire pit bulls. Both were rescues.

~ Hollie Thomas

Photo by Melissa Lipani