

## YOUR TEAM IS GOING TO RESEARCH

# Breed specific legislation

and speak **for and against** repealing it

This brief has been produced as part of the *RSPCA's Animal Welfare: The Great Debate* and is a starting point for the research you will need to do into the subject in order to ensure a successful debate. The points for or against a subject may not be RSPCA policy and represent some of the wider thinking around the subject.

- Breed Specific Legislation (BSL) was introduced 27 years ago as part of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 to restrict the ownership of certain types of dogs which are deemed to be dangerous to people.
- In the UK, BSL bans the ownership of four different types of dogs traditionally bred for fighting. Dogs can be euthanased if identified as one of the banned types.
- An owner can appeal to the court to lawfully keep their dog if they comply with certain preventative measures.

### FOR

Here are some points **in favour of** repealing BSL – what other points can you find?

- There is a lack of robust scientific evidence to demonstrate that these dog types are any more aggressive than other dogs.
- Whether or not a dog is aggressive is influenced by factors such as how they are bred and reared and experiences throughout their life.
- Breed or type is not a good predictor of risk of aggressive behaviour.

### AGAINST

Here are some reasons **against** repealing BSL – can you find any more?

- Prohibited dogs were traditionally selected for fighting and so are considered to pose a greater risk to people.
- Pit bull terrier types are among some of the most abused dogs. BSL offers these dogs protection by making their breeding illegal.
- These are big strong powerful dogs that can do a lot of damage.

### Information you may want to find out

- Which dog types are included in the Act?
- Has the number of dog bites increased or decreased since 1991? What are reasons for dogs biting?
- What does an owner have to do to get their dog exempt? What are the conditions?

### Potential sources of information

- RSPCA website: [www.rspca.cymru](http://www.rspca.cymru)
- Political Animal website: [www.politicalanimal.wales](http://www.politicalanimal.wales)
- RSPCA facts and figures: <http://media.rspca.org.uk/media/facts>
- The Kennel Club: [www.thekennelclub.org.uk](http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk)



## MAE EICH TÎM YN MYND I YMCHWILIO

# Deddfwriaeth bridiau penodol

a siarad **o blaid ac yn erbyn** ei diddymu

Mae'r briff hwn wedi'i lunio fel rhan o **Ddadl Fawr yr RSPCA: Lles Anifeiliaid** ac mae'n fan cychwyn i'r ymchwil y bydd angen i chi ei wneud i'r pwnc er mwyn cael dadl lwyddiannus. Mae'n bosibl na fydd rhai pwyntiau o blaid neu yn erbyn pwnc yn bolisi gan yr RSPCA, a'r pwyntiau yn cynrychioli peth o'r meddylfryd ehangach am y pwnc.

- Cyflwynwyd Deddfwriaeth Bridiau Penodol (DBP/ Breed Specific Legislation) 27 mlynedd yn ôl fel rhan o Ddeddf Cŵn Peryglus 1991 i gyfyngu ar berchnogaeth ar rai mathau o gŵn a ystyrir yn beryglus i bobl.
- Yn y Deyrnas Unedig, mae'r DBP yn gwahardd perchnogaeth ar bedwar math gwahanol o gŵn sy'n draddodiadol wedi cael eu magu i ymladd. Gellir rhoi cŵn i gysgu os profir eu bod yn un o'r mathau sydd wedi'u gwahardd.
- Gall perchennog apelio i'r llys i gadw eu ci yn gyfreithlon os ydynt yn cydymffurfio â rhai mesurau ataliol.

### O BLAID

Dyma rai pwyntiau **o blaid** diddymu'r DBP – pa bwyntiau eraill allwch chi eu canfod?

- Mae diffyg tystiolaeth wyddonol gadarn i ddangos bod y mathau hyn yn fwy ymosodol na chŵn eraill.
- Ffactorau megis sut y cawsant eu magu a'u profiadau trwy gydol eu hoes sy'n dylanwadu a oes natur ymosodol mewn ci ai peidio.
- Nid yw brid neu math y ci yn gallu dweud yn iawn wrthym a oes risg o ymddygiad ymosodol yn y ci hwnnw ai peidio.

### YN ERBYN

Dyma rai rhesymau **yn erbyn** diddymu'r DBP – ydych chi'n gallu canfod rhagor?

- Roedd y cŵn sydd wedi'u gwahardd yn draddodiadol yn cael eu dewis i ymladd ac felly ystyrir eu bod yn peri mwy o berygl i bobl.
- Bridiau o fath daeargwn pydew (pit bull terrier) yw rhai o'r cŵn sy'n cael eu cam-drin fwyaf. Mae'r DBP yn diogelu'r cŵn hyn trwy wneud eu bridio yn anghyfreithlon.
- Mae'r rhain yn gŵn pwerus cryf a all wneud llawer o ddifrod.

### Gwybodaeth y byddech o bosibl am chwilio amdani

- Pa fathau o gŵn sydd wedi'u cynnwys yn y Ddeddf?
- A yw nifer y brathiadau gan gŵn wedi cynyddu neu wedi gostwng ers 1991? Beth yw'r rhesymau pam fod cŵn yn brathu/cnoi?
- Beth mae perchennog yn gorfod ei wneud i gael eu ci wedi'i eithrio? Beth yw'r amodau?

### Ffynonellau posibl i gael gwybodaeth

- Gwefan yr RSPCA: [www.rspca.cymru](http://www.rspca.cymru)
- Gwefan Political Animal: [www.politicalanimal.wales](http://www.politicalanimal.wales)
- Ffeithiau a ffigyrau'r RSPCA: <http://media.rspca.org.uk/media/facts>
- The Kennel Club: [www.thekennelclub.org.uk](http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk)

