

# A Retrospective Study of Canine Outcomes and Length of Stay in a Mid-western Shelter Subject to Breed-Specific Legislation (BSL)

## Introduction



- BSL regulates ownership of select dog breeds within a municipality.
- BSL frequently targets “bully breeds” such as the American Pit Bull Terrier and other breeds with similar phenotypic characteristics.

## Methods

### Midwestern Municipal Shelter



1/1/2022-12/31/2022  
Retrospective record review

### Population



**764**  
Adult  
Dogs

**118**  
Legislated  
Dogs

**646**  
Non-  
Legislated  
Dogs

### Weight-Matched Subset



**85**  
Legislated  
Dogs

**339**  
Non-  
Legislated  
Dogs

**14.1 to  
30.6kg**

## Results

### Full Population



Non-legislated breeds were  
**more likely to be adopted**



Legislated dogs experienced a  
**longer length-of-stay (LOS)**



Legislated dogs were  
**more likely to be euthanized**



**No significant difference**  
in rate of euthanasia due to aggressive  
behavior or poor quality of life

### Weight-Matched Subset



Legislated dogs experienced a  
**significantly longer LOS to adoption and return-  
to owner**



**No significant difference**  
between the groups in live versus non-live  
outcomes

**CONCLUSION:** Dogs targeted by BSL should be considered an at-risk group within shelter populations. Overturning BSL would support live outcomes, including family reunification, for legislated dogs.