



## The Problem with Guessing Breeds and Consequences

An analogy of trying to judge a book by its cover might be helpful. Imagine you are interested in buying a new car. You are trying to decide between a new Toyota Prius or just going the used car route. So you visit the Toyota dealership and take a test drive in a car labeled by the manufacturer as a Toyota Prius with a full disclosure of options included. You like the Prius but you think it is a bit too expensive for your budget at the moment. So you think maybe I should look at a used car for a used Prius. Right across the street is a used car dealership. Odd you think that there are no cars in plain view but just a brick building with no windows and no doors only a big sign painted on the side of the building stating: Used Cars. You ask yourself how am I going to know what is inside that building with no windows and no obvious entrance. Translated into dog terms the new Toyota Prius is a AKC Registered American Staffordshire Terrier with specific constraints and requirements for it to be an AKC Registered American Staffordshire Terrier. The Used Car building with no doors or windows represents a dog of unknown ancestry and a person trying to guess that dog's ancestry only by looking at the appearance of the dog. No known person can reliability tell you the specific breed(s) ancestry of a dog by looking at it. A foundation of this legislation is to judge a dog by appearance alone. The stunning reality of just how unreliable "dog experts" are in trying to guess a mixed breed's ancestry simply by looking at it was brought out by the following studies.

1. The 2012 by University of Florida Maddie's Shelter Program College of Veterinary Medicine. (over 5000 "dog experts" participated)  
(<http://sheltermedicine.vetmed.ufl.edu/library/research-studies/current-studies/dog-breeds/>),
2. The 2013 study published by the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association (JAVMA)  
([http://nationalcanineresearchcouncil.com/uploaded\\_files/tinymce/Co-occurrence%20Whitepaper%20-%202013.pdf](http://nationalcanineresearchcouncil.com/uploaded_files/tinymce/Co-occurrence%20Whitepaper%20-%202013.pdf)),
3. The 2013 study by Dr. Victoria Voith, Western University of Health Sciences published by the National Canine Research Council  
([http://www.nationalcanineresearchcouncil.com/uploaded\\_files/tinymce/NCRC%20Commentary\\_Voith%20et%20al%20Inter-observer%20Reliability.pdf](http://www.nationalcanineresearchcouncil.com/uploaded_files/tinymce/NCRC%20Commentary_Voith%20et%20al%20Inter-observer%20Reliability.pdf)).

### Scientific Identification Methods

Starting in January 2008 Midwest Area Pit Stop, Inc (MAPS)" knocked down" the "used car building's walls" to show what is inside by testing dogs, using the Wisdom Panel Professional mixed breed DNA identification test (<http://www.wisdompanel.com/professional/>), labeled by Animal Control Officers, Animal Shelter Staff, or Veterinarians as "pit bulls". After more than 5 years of testing the results are remarkable: Over 100 specific dog breeds in over 95 separate



sample results (more results coming in) have been found in the DNA of dogs labeled by appearance as “pit bulls”(draft summary of the results attached).

### Analysis

There is no such breed as a “pit bull”. Rather it has been a term to group dogs of a very specific ancestry: American Staffordshire Terrier and Staffordshire Bull Terrier recognized by the American Kennel Club (AKC) and the American Pit Bull Terrier recognized by the United Kennel Club (UKC). What this legislation will do is create an entirely new breed that will very likely lump multiple dozens of breeds, not created nor recognized by a national dog kennel club, based exclusively on appearance. The dangers in this precedent are multifold.

### Consequences

1. One danger is that a large and growing number of insurance companies deny people home owner’s insurance simply on the basis of compiled unreliable breed statistics.
2. A second problem is the skewed results collected by using the appearance only criteria to determine the ordinance’s new breed at the time of a dog complaint will only increase the negative publicity surrounding “pit bulls”. This has and will continue to concentrate the dogs in troubled neighborhoods where dogs are set up to fail and where there tends to be a higher concentration of small children at risk. MAPS has been a local leader in helping children to become less of a target of dog of attacks by teaching them how to read a dog’s body language and how to behave around dogs (Madison Children’s Museum presentation by MAPS <http://www.wkow.com/story/15902135/be-like-a-tree-and-prevent-dog-danger?clienttype=printable> ).
3. Dysfunctional pet owners do not become good pet owners by spay/neutering their pet. “Bad” people like the dog the press loves to demonize and giving them the skewed statistics to find that dog is a decades old problem. In the past the German Shepard Dog, Rottlier, and Doberman Pincher, among others, have been the victim of this essentially negative advertizing campaign fueled by compiled breed statistics. Good adopters will continue to not want to adopt a “pit bull” when the media continues to sensationally report skewed statistics.
4. Imagine if we did not collect unreliable dog breed information but rather collected information on how dogs were set up to fail ([http://nationalcanineresearchcouncil.com/uploaded\\_files/tinymce/Co-occurrence%20Whitepaper%20-%202013.pdf](http://nationalcanineresearchcouncil.com/uploaded_files/tinymce/Co-occurrence%20Whitepaper%20-%202013.pdf)) . It could be envisioned that the discussion would turn, as the unreliable dog breed information is “sunsetting”, and a new era of focusing on people on how we can make our homes and neighborhood’s safer and have deeper positive connections with dog companions ( 2007 interview with MAPS <http://tinyurl.com/MAPS-Interview2007> good summary) .

# *Don't Judge a Book by Its Cover*

Below is a list of over 100 dog breeds identified by the Wisdom Panel Professional Mixed Breed Identification Test (Wisdom Panel ) within dogs declared "Pit Bulls" by Animal Control Officers, Animal Shelter Staff, or Veterinarians. No dog breeds were included below the Detection Limit of the Wisdom Panel test. Source: Midwest Area Pit Stop, Inc. Wisdom Panel Data Base, 2008 – 2013. Currently over 95 Breed test reports (more reports are coming in).

Air Dale Terrier, Akita, American Bulldog, American Staffordshire Terrier, American Water Spaniel, Argentine Dogo, Australian Cattle Dog, Basset Hound, Beagle, Belgian, Sheepdog, Bernese Mountain Dog, Black Russian Terrier, Bloodhound, Border Terrier, Boston Terrier, Bouvier des Flandres, Boykin Spaniel, Boxer, Briard, Brittany, Brussels Griffon, Bull Terrier, Bulldog, Bullmastiff, Cairn Terrier, Cardigan Welsh Corgi, Chesapeake Bay Retriever, Chinese Shar-Pei, Chinook, Chow Chow, Collie, Clumber Spaniel, Collie Rough, Curly Coated Retriever, Dachshund, Dalmatian, Dandie Dinmont Terrier, Doberman Pinscher, Dogue de Bordeaux, English Cocker Spaniel, English Springer Spaniel, Field Spaniel, Finnish, Spitz, French Bulldog, German Shepard Dog, Glen of Imaal Terrier, Golden Retriever, Gordon Setter, Great Dane, Great Pyrenees, Greater Swiss Mountain Dog, Greyhound, Hungarian Vizsla, Ibizan Hound, Irish Setter, Irish Terrier, Irish Water Spaniel, Irish Wolfhound, Italian Greyhound, Japanese Chin, Labrador Retriever, Lhasa Apso, Maltese, Manchester Terrier, Mastiff, Miniature Bull Terrier, Miniature Schnauzer, Miniature Short Haired Dachshund, Neopolitan Mastiff, Newfoundland, Norfolk Terrier, Norwich Terrier, Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever, Norwegian Elkhound, Norwich Terrier, Old English Sheep Dog, Parson Russell Terrier, Pembroke Welsh Corgi, Perro de Presa Canario, Pointer, Portuguese Water Dog, Pug, Puli, Pyrenean Mountain Dog, Redbone Coonhound, Rhodesian Ridgeback, Rottweiler, Russell Terrier, Shih Tzu, Staffordshire Bull Terrier, Saint Bernard, Samoyed, Schipperke, Scottish Deerhound, Scottish Terrier, Sealyham Terrier, Shetland Sheepdog, Siberian Husky, Smooth Fox Terrier, Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier, Spinone Italiano, Staffordshire Bull Terrier, Sussex Spaniel, Tibetan Spaniel, Tibetan Terrier, Toy Fox Terrier, Toy Poodle, Weimaraner, Welsh Springer Spaniel, Welsh Terrier, West Highland Terrier, White Swiss Shepard, Whippet Wire Fox Terrier, Wirehaired Pointing Griffon, Yorkshire Terrier

Wisdom Panel Professional Mixed Breed Test Information Page:

<http://www.wisdompanel.com/professional/>