



Barry Simpson strokes his five-year-old Staffordshire terrier Brindle. The Georgetown man says the provincial government is 'taking the easy way out' by proposing a "pit bull" ban instead of targeting bad dog owners.

Photo by Ted Brown

Humane Society doesn't support 'pit bull' ban

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Ontario Attorney General Michael Bryant about the ban.

"I think they should make it tougher for anybody that has a dog that's going to bite," said Kingshott.

Robert Burr, general manager of the Upper Credit Humane Society said the society "doesn't support a ban on any specific breed."

"We support increasing penalties on animal abuse and neglect," said Burr.

He said each act of aggression should be dealt with on an individual basis.

He also stressed that there is no such thing as a pit bull, and a pit bull is essentially a mongrel.

Burr said in his 35 years of dealing with dogs he has never been bitten by anything "described as a pit bull-type dog."

He believes there will be lawsuits launched if the ban becomes law.

"I'm sure there will be a lot of people extremely upset," said Burr.

"This is like picking out a few bad apples and saying it reflects the whole crop," he said.

When the ban becomes law municipalities will be required to

enforce it.

Ron Stein, municipal law enforcement officer for the Town of Halton Hills, said currently there are eight pit bulls licensed in Halton Hills.

He said since August 2002 there have been 35 dog bites in the town, but said he couldn't provide a breakdown on the breeds that did the biting.

Last year a pit bull in Acton was ordered destroyed after the owner was found guilty of three charges under the Dog Owners Liability Act.

—By Lisa Tallyn, staff writer

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