

# Breed Discrimination

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# What is Breed Discrimination?

- Breed discrimination for this study is defined as any dog that is euthanized or forced to be given up due to its breed or the owner's lack of responsibility in training.
- There is not a lot of research on it, most research focuses on animals harming humans instead of animals harmed by humans.
- Animals provide us with so much, we should help them.

# Research Questions

**This is a dog. He does not hate you because of your ethnicity, your sexuality, your gender, or your appearance. He loves you and will always love you regardless. Return the favor.**

***Breed Discrimination: just say no***



# Research Questions

- Should breed discrimination be a topic studied more in criminology and why?
- What is the current view of breed discrimination by the community?
- Are certain behaviors, such as antisocial behaviors, present more in people that own certain breeds of dogs?

# Theories



# Theories: Green Criminology

- Shaped by: social theory, utilitarian theory, rights theory, and feminist theory
  - Social theory-human to animal interactions can have same outcomes as human to human interactions
  - Utilitarian theory-everyone, including animals, has a right to be free from pain and suffering
  - Rights theory-animals are moral agents and deserve the same rights as humans
  - Feminist theory-no one is free from harm until everyone is, including animals

# Methods



# Methods

- Mixed methods approach, with a larger focus on qualitative studies
- Phone interview with a Kalamazoo Animal Law Enforcement Officer
- Online survey with both open-ended and close-ended questions
  - Distributed to students at Western Michigan University and the outside community
  - Distributed through Facebook social media



# Methods Cont.

- Types of Questions:
  - General demographic questions
  - Experience and opinions on certain dog breeds.
  - Five Factor Model Rating Form (30 questions pertaining to 5 personality categories)
- Help current research on the topic of how breeds are perceived and what kind of people get certain breeds of dogs.

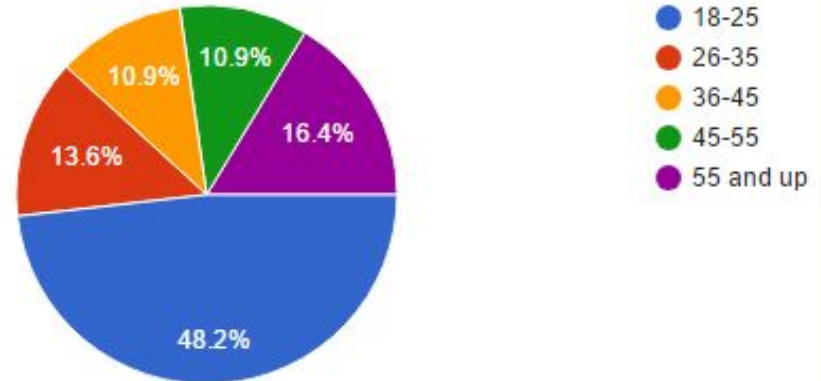
# Findings



# General Findings

- 110 responses to the online survey
- Majority:
  - 85.5% female
  - 48.2% between 18 and 25 years old
  - 76.4% owned dogs

Age (110 responses)



# Phone Interview

- Kalamazoo Animal Law Enforcement Officer
  - in the field for about 10 years
  - very passionate about the problems of breed discrimination
  - very clear, descriptive definition of breed discrimination
    - “profiling certain types of dogs as a bad dog, having a bad attitude towards dogs, or putting a label on dogs, just like racial discrimination”

# Ideas from the Interview

- People use dogs as a “status symbol”
  - “My dog is a big strong dog, so it makes me look big and tough too”

VS



Instead of:



# Ideas from the Interview

- People use dogs as a “status symbol”
  - “My dog is a big strong dog, so it makes me look big and tough too”
  
- Breed discrimination is the same as racial profiling

RACIAL PROFILING



IS WRONG!





# Ideas from the Interview

- People use dogs as a “status symbol”
  - “My dog is a big strong dog, so it makes me look big and tough too”
- Breed discrimination is the same as racial profiling
- Every so many years the “dangerous” breed changes, currently it’s the Pit Bull, some day it will probably change again.

In the '70s, they  
blamed the



dobermans

In the '80s, they  
blamed the



german shepherds

In the '90s, they  
blamed the  
rottweilers



Now they blame the  
pitbulls



When are they going to start  
blaming the

humans?



"In the '70s, they blamed the dobermans. In the '80s, they blamed the german shepherds. In the '90s, they blamed the rottweilers. Now they blame the pitbulls."

- Cesar Milan



[facebook.com/ForTheLoveOfTheDog](https://www.facebook.com/ForTheLoveOfTheDog)

There's no such thing as a mean dog,  
just a mean owner.

# Survey Findings

- Knowledge on Breed Discrimination
  - 91.8% have heard about breed discrimination
  - Common definition phrases
    - “bans on specific breeds of dogs in certain areas”
    - “biased judgements based on breed”
    - “not getting a dog because of it’s breed”
  - About 54.5% stated their apartments/landlords allowed pets
    - 44.5% allowed small animals only
    - 50% allowed dogs, 5.5% small dogs only
  - Breeds not allowed:
    - Pit Bulls, German Shepherds, Rottweilers, Doberman Pinschers, Akitas, and Mastiff breeds.

# Findings Cont.

- 72.7% believed landlords should not be allowed to deny housing to owners of certain breeds of dogs
- Some argued it was okay, but needed adjustments
  - Don't allow ALL large breeds, to keep a quieter community and have less damage done to the small living spaces
  - More checks done on owners, to look at if the owner can control the dog so it can fit well in the community (don't look only at the breed)

# Conclusion



# Conclusion

- Research Question: What is the current view of breed discrimination by the community?
- Findings:
  - 91.8% had heard about breed discrimination before
  - Common definition phrases
    - “bans on specific breeds of dogs in certain areas”
    - “biased judgements based on breed”
    - “not getting a dog because of it’s breed”

# Conclusion Cont.

- Research Question: Are certain behaviors, such as antisocial behavior, present in people that own certain breeds of dogs?
- Findings:
  - Neuroticism vs Emotional Stability - no relationship
  - Extraversion vs Introversion - relationship
  - Openness vs Closedness - relationship
  - Agreeableness vs Antagonism - invalid, unknown
  - Conscientiousness vs Undependability - no relationship

# Conclusion Cont.

- Research Question: Should breed discrimination be studied in criminology and why?
- Findings:
  - There was a lot of positive feedback on the topic
    - 86.4% believed breed discrimination is wrong
    - over 50% believe it should be studied more
    - Similar to racial profiling, can relate to crimes against humans



# Conclusion Cont.

- Breed Discrimination is not a huge concern in the midwest towns.
  
- Limitations
  - lack of variety in sample
  - reach more community members
  - survey question adjustments
  - more interviews with people in the animal field

# Image Sources

- [https://www.google.com/search?q=breed+discrimination&espv=2&rlz=1CAACAJ\\_enUS654US654&source=lnms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwi1\\_uungr7JAhXKsh4KHW8XA2cQ\\_AUICCgC&biw=1366&bih=633#imgre=jw9jPjc1rRp3HM%3A](https://www.google.com/search?q=breed+discrimination&espv=2&rlz=1CAACAJ_enUS654US654&source=lnms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwi1_uungr7JAhXKsh4KHW8XA2cQ_AUICCgC&biw=1366&bih=633#imgre=jw9jPjc1rRp3HM%3A)
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