



# ALABAMA CANINE COALITION, INC.



**YOUR DOG  
YOUR RIGHTS**

## ALABAMA CANINE COALITION, INC. POSITION STATEMENT

### BREED SPECIFIC LEGISLATION

The Alabama Canine Coalition opposes legislation based on a particular breed. The Alabama Canine Coalition does support educational programs for the public concerning responsible dog ownership. The Alabama Canine Coalition does not believe a dog should be declared a nuisance or a danger based on its breed.

### DANGEROUS DOG LAWS

The Alabama Canine Coalition does support enforceable, reasonable and non-discriminatory laws concerning dog ownership. The Alabama Canine Coalition believes in dog owners being responsible for their dogs. The Alabama Canine Coalition believes in fair process to establish guidelines for defining "Dangerous Dogs" and a fair process for enforcing those guidelines. The Alabama Canine Coalition does recognize that there are times when a dog is proven to be "dangerous" and that it may need to be humanely euthanized.

### PET LIMIT LAWS

The Alabama Canine Coalition does not support the limiting of companion animals a person can own. The Alabama Canine Coalition does not believe that "limits" protect or serve to prevent any nuisance problems occurring because of dog owners who are not responsible owners. The Alabama Canine Coalition believes that other ordinances are better suited to address nuisance problems.

### MANDATORY SPAY/NEUTER LAWS

The Alabama Canine Coalition supports the rights of individual responsible dog owners to make the best decision with regard to their dog's reproductive health. The Alabama Canine Coalition does not support the indiscriminate breeding of dogs, whether purebred or mixed breed. We believe that the breeding of animals should be done thoughtfully and with careful consideration. Responsible breeding practices include consideration of health issues, temperament, and the preservation of breed characteristics in purebred dogs. Any puppies produced should be well-socialized before being placed in responsible, caring, and permanent homes. As this pertains to mandatory spay/neuter issues, we support the belief that if a person voluntarily relinquishes a pet, or if a pet is legally taken from a home due to mistreatment, neglect or abuse and placed in a sheltering facility, or an animal is found homeless and ownerless, then ownership rights to voluntary decision to spay/neuter that pet transfer to the intervening shelter or government agency responsible for the care and disposition of homeless, neglected or abused dogs. The state's mandate to end the indiscriminate breeding of animals then becomes the controlling factor over that animal's reproductive health.

### DOG FIGHTING

The Alabama Canine Coalition opposes any and all dog fighting and the breeding and/or training of dogs for the purpose of fighting. The Alabama Canine Coalition endorses the maximum penalty under the law if convicted of dog fighting, training for dog fighting, or attendance at dog fights.

### GUARDIAN VS. OWNER

The Alabama Canine Coalition is opposed to any change in the law that would shift ownership to guardianship. The term "guardian" does nothing to enhance the relationship or the bond between people and animals, and may, in fact, harm or restrict owners, veterinarians and other service providers in the ability to make decisions necessary for animal well-being and care.