

Herald Sun

Top Stories

Pit bull blitz a losing battle



Jul 21, 2012 5:30am

THE Government is losing the legal dogfight to rid Victoria of pit bulls.

Councils have been beaten in more than half of appeals by owners trying to save their pets.

About 150 pit bulls have been put down since "restricted breed" laws were introduced last September, and another 20 are in pounds awaiting destruction, a source told the Herald Sun.

Despite a moral objection to destroying pit bulls - it "should be the deed of the dog and not the breed of the dog" - the RSPCA, which refuses to give evidence at appeals, is being attacked by angry owners for putting down some of the animals.

Animal services manager Helen Cocks said the society opposed "breed-specific legislation".

"It is extremely sad that dogs that are deemed to meet these new breed standards under the law, but would otherwise be good canine citizens, may be put to sleep," she said.

Some vets have refused to destroy dogs on the grounds of breed alone, Australian Veterinary Association Victorian president Dr Susan Maastricht said.

Editorial: Tighten leash on these dogs

VCAT hearings have led to Facebook threats against council animal inspectors and a vow by one senior vet to never again give evidence.

A four to six-month delay in the VCAT process forces councils to spend \$27.50 a day to keep animals on death row, adding up to \$3000-\$5000 a dog.

Councils seeking to destroy dogs they assess as pit bulls have lost six of 11 VCAT appeals.

Councils rely on physical measurements, leading to a contest between expert evidence from both sides.

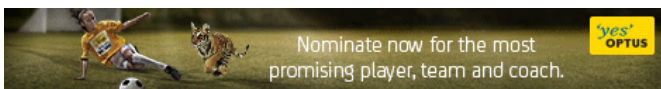
"Pit bulls and pit bull-type dogs have lost their right to exist in Victoria," Agriculture Minister Peter Walsh said.

"We make no apology for the tough actions we have taken to protect Victorians, particularly children, from attacks like the one that tragically killed Ayen Chol (the four-year-old whose death last August helped prompt the new laws)."

American Pit Bull Terrier Club of Australia secretary Bonnie Norton said neighbours were phoning the dangerous dogs hotline, resulting in councils searching properties.

"They are coming out and taking much-loved family pets that have done nothing wrong," she said.

Share



More Top Stories

- Baden-Clay lawyer files for bankruptcy
- Girl falls from five-metre high window
- I had gut instinct killer was my son
- Accused mass killer's victims named
- Police offer reward over fatal assault

Most Read Stories

- I had gut instinct killer was my son
- Baden-Clay lawyer files for bankruptcy
- Roach bombs injure man, tear door off
- Police offer reward over fatal assault
- Blake plans sizzler of a wedding

[View More News](#)

Lottery Results

Saturday Lotto (NSW)

21 Jul (Draw 3235)

6 7 9 23 43 3 Supp: 14 25

[More Lottery Results](#)

Horoscopes

Cancer (23 June - 23 July)



Love Focus - Weekly Update: Don't underestimate your own popularity. You are much liked, appreciated and admired. And if someone isn't showing this in their behaviour towards you? Perhaps they have got issues. Do they, perhaps, feel a little...

[More Horoscopes](#)

Find the One

[Mining Investment Financial A...](#)
Reputable and professional mining...
Resource ..., Perth

[Senior HR Advisor](#)
Resources Industry Fantastic Remu...
Hays, Perth

[Injury Management Officer](#)
· Up to 15% Superannuation · Flex...
City of W..., Perth



Search 1000s of jobs

<p>News</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Top Stories Sport Entertainment National State World Business & finance Technology Weather Horoscopes Lottery results Picture gallery 	<p>Sports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Latest sports AFL Football Cricket Rugby League Rugby Union Tennis Golf Motor sports Horse racing Other sports Footy tipping 	<p>TV & Video</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Latest TV & Video TV listings Optus TV Now Optus MeTV with fetch Optus TV feat. FOXTEL Mobile TV Online videos Featured content <p>Optus Smart Safe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Features Pricing Check compatibility Sign up My Smart Safe account 	<p>Music</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$1.69 MP3 songs Ringtones Top downloads New releases Pop Urban Dance Rock Classic hits My downloads <p>Terms & Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Optus Zoo terms 	<p>Games</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All games Top downloads New releases Top rated Latest reviews Puzzles & games Action Sports My downloads <p>Apps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Featured Games Entertainment Social networking Lifestyle 	<p>Member Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> My internet account Web services Webmail Member benefits Internet Security Suite <p>Help</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dial-up help DSL help Cable help Satellite help Wireless help Optus on NBN help Security Suite help Zoo Mobile help SocialView help Online safety
---	--	---	--	--	--

Careers | Privacy policy | Copyright | Accessibility | Standard agreements | Internet acceptable use

Optus sites: Optus Business | Enterprise & Government | Wholesale | 'yes' Optus Franchising

Optus shop: Mobile Phone Plans | iPhone Plans | Broadband Plans | New iPad

Support: Contact Us | Find a Store | My Optus Community

©2012 Singtel Optus Pty Limited