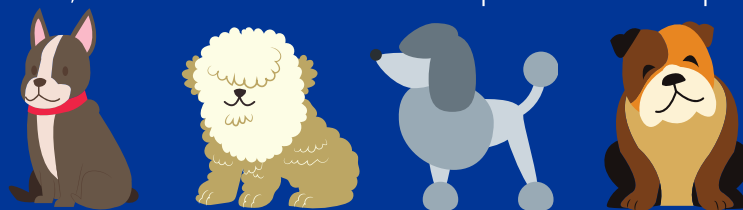


DOG LIMIT LAWS

Animal control is a major concern in many communities. Often, government officials see placing a limit on the number of dogs a person may own as a viable solution. Limit laws, however, are ineffective, difficult to enforce, and fail to address the true problem of irresponsible ownership.



LIMIT LAWS WILL NOT STOP IRRESPONSIBLE OWNERS

Irresponsible owners exist regardless of how many dogs they own. There are responsible owners of many dogs and irresponsible owners of a single dog. Selecting an arbitrary limit will not prevent irresponsible ownership.



LIMIT LAWS PUNISH RESPONSIBLE OWNERS

Responsible owners should be allowed to use their own discretion in determining the number of dogs they can keep on their own property. Limit laws could restrict the many responsible breeders who raise and breed purebred dogs and ensure the future health, welfare and quality of their individual breeds. Limit laws also hinder dog owners who rescue unwanted animals and either personally adopt them as pets or find them permanent homes.



LIMIT LAWS ARE DIFFICULT TO ENFORCE

Enforcement of limit laws would require local animal control officers to physically go to the home or kennel of every owner of multiple dogs and count how many they own. Many officials propose licensing as a way to address this issue. Irresponsible dog owners can easily evade licensing by simply not registering their dogs.



LIMIT LAWS CAN CREATE MORE BURDENS ON A COMMUNITY

Limit laws are very costly and burdensome to enforce. If someone owns more than the allowed number of dogs, they will be forced to get rid of some of them in order to come into compliance with the new law. Dogs could be removed from loving homes and likely end up in shelters and/or euthanized at taxpayers' expense.



A BETTER SOLUTION IS AVAILABLE!

The American Kennel Club and its affiliated clubs understand the challenges of creating effective animal control ordinances for a community. We support laws that target irresponsible dog owners and substandard animal care; however, limit laws do not address these issues. Limit laws are ineffective, difficult to enforce and unfair to responsible dog owners. Government officials should instead focus on targeting irresponsible owners regardless of the number of dogs owned.

www.akc.org

To learn more, visit
www.akcgr.org/limit

American Kennel Club Government Relations
www.akcgr.org | doglaw@akc.org | 919-816-3720

