

Countries Worldwide that Restrict Dangerous Dog Breeds

Organized Alphabetically by Region and Country

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[D] = Dependent or sovereign state

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Summary of Estimate

Total Countries	Total National Laws	World Population Affected by Restrictions
84	74	4,994,513,091

Most Regulated Dangerous Dog Breeds Worldwide



Country	National Law	Year(s)	Type of Dangerous Dog Breed Restriction
Africa			
DR Congo "In Progress" <i>(Excluded from analysis)</i>			In 2024, DR Congo president Felix Tshisekedi called for government control over certain dangerous dog breeds, including Pit Bull and Boerboel (South African Mastiff). Tshisekedi tasked the Ministry of the Interior and Ministry of Public Health, Hygiene, and Prevention to work together to regulate the breeding and ownership of these dogs. ¹
Egypt	Yes	2023	In Egypt, Law 29/2023 prohibits multiple dangerous dog breeds, including: Pit Bull, Rottweiler, German Shepherd, Boxer, Husky, Caucasian Shepherd, Bullmastiff, Doberman Pinscher, Alaskan Malamute, Great Dane, Japanese Akita, American Bully, Alabai (Central Asian Shepherd), Dogo Argentino, Cane Corso, and Japanese Tosa. ²
Mauritius	Yes		The Republic of Mauritius prohibits the importation and ownership of the following fighting breeds: American Pit Bull Terrier, Staffordshire Terrier, Blue Nose Pit Bull, Red Nose Pit Bull, Japanese Tosa, Dogo Argentino, Fila Brasileiro (Brazilian Mastiff), and Boerboel (South African Mastiff). Only purebred breeds from the list of dangerous dogs are permitted for importation, including: Alaskan Malamute, Bullmastiff, Cane Corso, Doberman Pinscher, Kangal, and Neapolitan Mastiff. ³
Morocco	Yes	2018	Morocco defines a dangerous dog as "any dog that by its race or morphology is characterized by dangerous ferocity to humans." The law prohibits multiple fighting breeds, including: Staffordshire Bull Terrier, American Staffordshire Bull Terrier, Pit Bull, Mastiff, Boerboel (South African Mastiff), and Japanese Tosa. ⁴
Mozambique	Yes	2024	Mozambique's National Livestock Development Directorate issued a notice April 1, 2024 prohibiting the importation of 26 "potentially dangerous," dog breeds: Fila Brasileiro (Brazilian Mastiff), Dogo Argentino, Pit Bull, Rottweiler, American Staffordshire Terrier, Japanese Tosa, Bull Terrier, Bullmastiff, Doberman Pinscher, Wolfdog crossbreed, German Shepherd, and Australian Shepherd. "The risks to public health arising from the presence of potentially dangerous dogs and dogs considered dangerous in Mozambique have been increasing significantly," states the notice in part. ^{5,6,7}
Saint Helena [D]	Yes		Saint Helena is a dependent nation of the United Kingdom. The nation prohibits the importation of the four principal fighting

			breeds: American Pit Bull Terrier, Dogo Argentino, Japanese Tosa, and Fila Brasileiro (Brazilian Mastiff). 8,9
Seychelles	Yes		The Republic of Seychelles designates multiple fighting breeds as a "restricted breed of dangerous dogs," under the Control and Protection of Dogs Regulations, 2021. These dog breeds include: American Pit Bull Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier, Dogo Argentino, Japanese Tosa, Fila Brasileiro, Pit Bull (all variety or species of pit bull). The importation and breeding of restricted breeds is prohibited. Ownership of a restricted breed requires the dog be sterilized, wear a special tag, and be muzzled and leashed when in public. 10
Tunisia	Yes		According to Mosaic North Africa, a travel website, Tunisia prohibits the importation of multiple dangerous dog breeds: Pit Bull Terrier, Rottweiler, Japanese Tosa, and Mastiff. 11-12
Asia			
Bahrain	Yes	2023	The Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture issued Decision No. 100 for 2023, which prohibits the importation of the following fighting breeds: Staffordshire Terrier, Japanese Tosa, Presa Canario, Mastiff, Pit Bull Terrier, and their hybrids. 13 Bahrain animal welfare activists said the decision "crippled" the blood sport of dogfighting. 14
Brunei (Darussalam)	Yes		Brunei prohibits the importation of multiple fighting breeds due to the "threat they pose" to public safety: Japanese Akita, Fila Brasileiro (Brazilian Mastiff), American Bulldog, Dogo Argentino, Neapolitan Mastiff, Pit Bull (including American Pit Bull Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier and Staffordshire Bull Terrier), Japanese Tosa and Presa Canario. Several other potentially dangerous dog breeds may be imported, but restrictions apply, including: Bullmastiff, Bull Terrier, Doberman Pinscher, German Shepherd, Alsatian, Belgian Shepherd, and East European Shepherd. 15,16
China	No		Major cities in China prohibit large and aggressive dog breeds from key districts. In 2003, Beijing prohibited: "large and vicious dogs," including: Mastiff, German Pinscher, St. Bernard, Great Dane, Great Pyrenees, Bernese Mountain Dog, Rottweiler, Weimaraner, Setters, Afghan Hound, Foxhound, Bloodhound, Irish Wolfhound, Saluki, Greyhound, Borzoi, Basenji, Australian Shepherd, Belgian Shepherd, Bouvier des Flandres, Bearded Collie, Scottish Shepherd, German Shepherd, Old English Sheepdog, British Bulldog, Chow Chow, Dalmatian, Keeshond, Japanese Akita, Newfoundland Sled Dog, Bedlington Terrier, Bull

			<p>Terrier, Kerry Blue Terrier. In 2011, Shanghai prohibited: Tibetan Mastiff, Mastiff, Rottweiler, Italy Twisted Boli Dayton (Neapolitan Mastiff, Italian Mastiff alias Napoleon Mastiff), Bordeaux Mastiff (Dogue de Bordeaux, French Mastiff), Bullmastiff, Mastin Espanol (Spanish Mastiff), Caucasian Dog (Caucasian Ovcharka), Pyrenean Mountain Dog (Pyrenean Mastiff), Brazil Rockefeller (Fila Brasileiro, alias the Brazilian Mastiff), Dogo Argentino (Argentinean Dogo Mastiff), Horse Mastiff (Danish Broholmer) and other mastiff descent, and hybridization with dogs, Beauceron Wolfdog, Kunming Wolfdog, China Dog, German Shepherd, English Bulldog, Old English Bulldog, American Bulldog, Japanese Tosa, Bull Terrier and Doberman Pinscher. In 2012, Xi'an, prohibited residents from keeping 34 types of dogs, including: Pit Bull and German Shepherd.¹⁷ In 2018, Chengdu prohibited 22 dog breeds from major districts, including: Mastiff, Pit Bull Terrier (including American Staffordshire Terrier and Staffordshire Bull Terrier), Japanese Akita, Dogo Argentino, German Shepherd, Chinese Chongqing, Borzoi, Newfoundland, Cane Corso, Central Asian Shepherd, Great Dane, Dogue de Bordeaux (French Mastiff), Fila Brasileiro (Brazilian Mastiff), Irish Wolfhound, Caucasian Shepherd, Kunming Wolfdog, and Chinese Dog.¹⁸</p>
Cyprus	Yes		<p>The Republic of Cyprus prohibits the importation of the four primary fighting breeds: Pit Bull Terrier (American Pit Bull Terrier), Japanese Tosa (Tosa Inu), Dogo Argentino (Argentinian Mastiff), and Fila Brasileiro (Brazilian Mastiff).^{19,20}</p>
Hong Kong [D]	Yes	2000	<p>Since July 1997, Hong Kong has been a special administrative region of the People's Republic of China.²¹ Under the CAP 167D - Dangerous Dogs Regulation, Schedule 1,²² Hong Kong prohibits the importation of four fighting breeds: Pit Bull Terrier, Japanese Tosa, Dogo Argentino, Fila Brasileiro (Brazilian Mastiff), and their cross breeds.^{23,24} For the importation of a Staffordshire Bull Terrier, a statutory declaration must be submitted with the application. Hong Kong was a British Dependent Territory prior to the handover to China.</p>
India "In Progress"	Yes	2024	<p>In India, multiple northwest municipal corporations, including Ghaziabad,²⁵ Gurugram,²⁶ and Kanpur,²⁷ banned multiple dangerous dog breeds after the 2020 Covid pandemic, such as: Pit Bull, Rottweiler, Dogo Argentino, Bandog, Neapolitan Mastiff, Presa Canario, Boerboel (South African Mastiff), Wolfdog Hybrid, Cane Corso, American Bulldog, and Fila Brasileiro (Brazilian Mastiff). This region also has a history of illegal dogfighting using pit bulls and mastiff fighting breeds.^{28,29} In March 2024, the Centre</p>

(central government) issued a circular prohibiting the import, breeding and selling of 24 "ferocious" breeds, including: Pit Bull Terrier, Japanese Tosa, American Staffordshire Terrier, Fila Brasileiro (Brazilian Mastiff), Dogo Argentino, American Bulldog, Boerboel (South African Mastiff), Kangal, Central Asian Shepherd, Caucasian Shepherd Dog, South Russian Shepherd, Tornjak (Croatian Shepherd Dog),³⁰ Sarplaninac (Yugoslavian Shepherd Dog),³¹ Japanese Akita, Mastiff, Rottweiler, Terrier, Rhodesian Ridgeback, Wolfdog, Presa Canario, Akbash, Moscow Watchdog, Cane Corso and every type of Bandog.^{32,33} On April 16, 2024, the Delhi High Court set aside the circular after the Union of India admitted that "other than Government bodies, no private body was heard before the impugned circular was issued."^{34,35} As a result, in May, the Centre began seeking comments from stakeholders.³⁶ Also in May, the southern state of **Tamil Nadu** adopted these restrictions.³⁷ In February 2025, the western state of **Goa** prohibited the import, breeding and selling of pit bulls and rottweilers.³⁸

Israel	Yes	2004	Israel prohibits the importation of multiple fighting breeds: Staffordshire Bull Terrier (American Staffordshire Terrier), Bull Terrier, Dogo Argentino, Japanese Tosa, Staffordshire Bull Terrier (English Staffordshire), Pit Bull Terrier, Fila Brasileiro (Brazilian Mastiff), and Rottweiler. The keeping of these breeds requires the dog be muzzled in public, walked by someone 18 or older, cannot be released into dog parks, must be spayed or neutered, special licensing, and more. ^{39,40}
Japan	No		<i>Japan Today</i> reported in November 2024: " Sapporo , the prefectural capital of Hokkaido, and some other municipalities have under local ordinances designated Pit Bulls as "specified dogs" that may harm people. These authorities urge that they be kept in cages that lock and be muzzled, among other measures, and impose fines if such steps are not taken." ⁴¹ In 1995, Okinawa Prefecture Government established a set of guidelines for management of dogs classified as "fighting dogs," which include the American Pit Bull Terrier, "Tosa-dogs" (Japanese Tosa) and dogs whose body height is more than 22 inches. According to the guidelines, fighting dogs should only be taken outside by someone who is capable of physically controlling them. All fighting dogs should be muzzled when outside. ⁴²
Kuwait	Yes	2011	Multiple fighting breeds cannot be imported into Kuwait, including: Pit Bull Terrier, American and English Staffordshire Bull Terrier, Mastiff (all breeds), American Bulldog, Rottweiler, Japanese Tosa, Wolves and Wolfdog hybrids, Great Dane, Dog de

			Bordeaux (French Mastiff), Shar Pei, Doberman Pinscher, and Canary Dog (Presa Canario). 43,44,45
Malaysia	Yes	2002	Malaysia publishes a list of banned fighting breeds and prohibits their importation: Japanese Akita, American Bulldog, Dogo Argentino, Fila Brasileiro (Brazilian Mastiff), Neapolitan Mastiff, and Pit Bull Terrier (American Pit Bull/ American Pit Bull Terrier/ American Staffordshire Terrier and Staffordshire Bull Terrier. A list of restricted breeds includes: Bullmastiff, Bull Terrier, Doberman Pinscher, German Shepherd (Alsatian), including Belgian Shepherd (Belgian Malinois) and East European Shepherd, Presa Canario (Canary Dog) and Rottweiler. 46 Documentation from the Ministry of Agriculture and Industry (2011) states that additional dangerous dog breeds are prohibited from importation: Tibetan Mastiff, Caucasian Ovcharka (Caucasian Shepherd Dog), Japanese Tosa, Russo-European Laika and Kai Ken (Korean Dogs). Additional breeds are restricted as well: Dogue de Bordeaux (French Mastiff), Belgian Tervuren, Miniature Bull Terrier, Groenendael, Estrela Mountain Dog (Cao da Serra da Estrela), Alaskan Malamute, Laekenois, Rafeiro Do Alentejo (Portuguese Watchdog). 47,48 After an Irish traveler was killed by multiple pit bulls on Penang Island in 2011, Subang Jaya, a Malaysian city south of the island, adopted a ban on high-risk dog breeds, including: Japanese Akita, Neapolitan Mastiff, American Bulldog, Dogo Argentino, Fila Brasileiro (Brazilian Mastiff), Japanese Tosa, and American Pit Bull. 49
Oman	Yes	2019	Ministerial decision No. 222/2019 prohibits the importation of multiple fighting breeds and other dangerous dog breeds: Pit Bull, Staffordshire Terrier, American Bullmastiff, Fila Brasileiro (Brazilian Mastiff), Dogo Argentino, Japanese Tosa, Rottweiler, Doberman Pinscher, Presa Canario, Boxer, Boerboel (South African Mastiff), Caucasian Shepherd Dog, Anatolian Karabash (Anatolian Shepherd), and Great Dane. 50
Qatar	Yes	2015	Qatar prohibits the importation of multiple dangerous dog breeds: American Staffordshire Terrier, American Pit Bull Terrier, Boerboel (South African Mastiff), Boston Terrier, Boxer, Bull Terrier, Bulldog, Chinese Shar Pei, Doberman Pinscher, Great Dane, Japanese Akita, Neapolitan Mastiff, Afghan Hound, Rottweiler, and Staffordshire Bull Terrier. 51 According to the Canadian Veterinary Hospital in Doha, Qatar, additional breeds were added in 2015, including: Fila Brasileiro (Brazilian Mastiff), Mastin Espanol (Spanish Mastiff), Bullmastiff, Olde English Mastiff, Dog de Bordeaux (French Mastiff), Cane Corso, and Kangal Shepherd Dog. 52

Saudi Arabia	Yes	2013	<p>The Saudi Arabia embassy website states: "Dangerous and aggressive dogs such as Rottweilers and Pit Bulls are not permitted entry into the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia under any circumstances."⁵³ Additional dog breeds include: Japanese Spitz, Japanese Akita, Affenpinscher, Brussels Griffon, Hovawart, Boxer, English Bulldog, Staffordshire Bull Terrier, Dandie Dinmont Terrier, Lancashire Heeler, Swedish Valhunde, Mastiff, Old English Mastiff, Newfoundland, Neapolitan Mastiff, Great Dane, Bullmastiff, and Leon Bergehni (Leonberger).^{54,55}</p>
Singapore	Yes	1991	<p>Singapore restricts multiple dog breeds by requiring owners to: (1) limit to one dog of these breeds per premise, (2) leash and muzzle when in public and (3) liability insurance for at least \$100,000. The breeds include: Bull Terrier, Doberman Pinscher, Rottweiler, German Shepherd Dog (with its related breeds such as the Belgian Shepherd and the East European Shepherd), Mastiffs including the Bullmastiff, Cane Corso and Dogue De Bordeaux (French Mastiff), and crosses between any of the above breeds and other breeds. Starting in 1991, Singapore prohibited the importation of multiple fighting breeds, including: American Pit Bull Terrier, Japanese Tosa and Japanese Akita.⁵⁶ As of November 2024, Singapore prohibits the following fighting breeds from importation: Pit Bull (American Pit Bull Terrier also known as the American Pit Bull and Pit Bull Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier, Staffordshire Bull Terrier, American Bulldog, and crosses between them and breeds) Neapolitan Mastiff, Japanese Tosa, Japanese Akita, Dogo Argentino, Boerboel (South African Mastiff), Fila Brasileiro (Brazilian Mastiff), Presa Canario and their cross breeds.^{57,58}</p>
South Korea	Yes	2012 2020	<p>Prior to 2017,⁵⁹ under the Animal Protection Act, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs declared certain dog breeds dangerous, and required them to be leashed and muzzled when outdoors: Japanese Tosa, American Pit Bull Terrier, Staffordshire Terrier, Staffordshire Bull Terrier, Rottweiler and their crossbreeds.^{60,61} In 2020, the ministry announced that owners of these breeds must also obtain liability insurance.⁶² In 2024, the government of the Gyeonggi Province announced that dog breeds classified as dangerous must undergo a temperament test in order for their ownership to be approved. Other provincial governments followed suit.⁶³</p>
Taiwan [D]	Yes	2001 2015 2021	<p>Taiwan is officially the Republic of China.⁶⁴ In 2001, the Taiwan government categorized multiple dog breeds as aggressive, requiring them to be leashed and muzzled in public: Pit Bull Terrier (American Pit Bull Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier</p>

and Staffordshire Bull Terrier), Japanese Tosa and Neapolitan Mastiff. In 2015, the Dogo Argentino, Fila Brasileiro, and Mastiff (Tibetan Mastiff, Bullmastiff, Cane Corso, and Dogue de Bordeaux) were added.⁶⁵ In October 2021, an amendment to the Animal Protection Act (Agricultural and Animal Husbandry No. 1100042728) prohibited the ownership, importation and exportation of two pit bull breeds: American Pit Bull Terrier and American Staffordshire Terrier.⁶⁶ After March 1, 2022, private owners are not allowed to breed these dogs in the future. Private owners who fail to register and spay and neuter by the date face fines from NT\$50,000 and NT\$250,000.⁶⁷

Thailand	Yes		Thailand prohibits the importation of the Pit Bull Terrier and American Staffordshire Terrier. ⁶⁸
Turkey	Yes	2004 2021	Turkey prohibits the sale, ownership and importation of the Pit Bull Terrier and Japanese Tosa. ⁶⁹ In 2004, the government passed a comprehensive animal protection law, Law No. 5199, prohibiting the breeding, buying, and selling of dogs which constitutes a danger, "such as a Pit Bull Terrier, Japanese Tosa, etc." ⁷⁰ In 2021, new legislation, again, prohibited multiple fighting breeds and increased penalties for breeders and sellers of: Pit Bull Terrier, Japanese Tosa, Dogo Argentino, and Fila Brasileiro (Brazilian Mastiff). ^{71,72}
United Arab Emirates	Yes	2008 2021	In 2008, Dubai restricted 16 dog breeds from residential and public areas: American Staffordshire Terrier, American Pit Bull Terrier, American Bull Dog, Bull Terrier, Old English Bull Dog, Staffordshire Bull Terrier, Japanese Tosa, Husky, Rottweiler, Doberman Pinscher, Shar Pei, Presa Mallorquin/Bull Dog, Neapolitan Mastiff, Argentinean Mastiff, Miniature Bull Terrier, Presa Canario (Canary Dog), Fila Brasileiro (Brazilian Mastiff). ⁷³ By extension, the UAE issued a directive banning the importation of six fighting breeds: Pit Bull (all types), Japanese Tosa (Tosa Inu; Tosa Fighting Dog), Argentinian Fighting Dog (Dogo Argentino; Argentinian Mastiff), Brazilian Fighting Dog (Fila Brasileiro; Brazilian Mastiff), Wolfdog Hybrid (Any dog mixed with a wolf), American Staffordshire Terrier. ⁷⁴ In 2021, the Ministry Of Climate Change and Environment (MoCCA) updated the list to include the American Bully. Federal Law No. (22) of 2016 prohibits the following breeds: (1) Pit Bull: Staffordshire Bull Terrier, American Pit Bull Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier, American Bully, Any mixed breed of these breeds or their hybrid (2) Mastiff Dogs: Brazilian, Argentinean, Any Mastiff or hybrid (3) Japanese Tosa or hybrid (4) Doberman Pinscher (6) Presa Canario (7) Boxer. ^{75,76}

Europe			
Austria	No		The keeping of certain fighting breeds is regulated differently from state-to-state in Austria. The state of Vienna requires the owners of dangerous breeds, "Listenhund," to take the Vienna Dog License exam: American Staffordshire Terrier, Bull Terrier, Dogo Argentino, Fila Brasileiro (Brazilian Mastiff), Mastiff, Bullmastiff, Mastin Espanol (Spanish Mastiff), Mastino Neapolitano (Neapolitan Mastiff), Pit Bull Terrier, Rottweiler, Staffordshire Bull Terrier, Japanese Tosa. ⁷⁷ The states of Lower Austria and Vorarlberg have a similar requirement. ⁷⁸
Belarus	Yes	2012	In 2012, the Treatment of Animals Law was adopted that requires owners of 45 potentially dangerous dog breeds to adhere to certain conditions, such as keeping the dog securely on premise: 1) Australian Boar Dog (Bull Arab), 2) AINU, 3) Akbash, 4) American Pit Bull Terrier, 5) American Staffordshire Terrier, 6) Anatolian Karabash (Anatolian Shepherd), 7) English Mastiff, 8) Belgian Mastiff, 9) Dogue de Bordeaux (French Mastiff), 10) Bully Kutta (Pakistani Mastiff), 11) Bullmastiff, 12) Bull Terrier, 13) Bandog, 14) East European Shepherd, 15) Gorski Hunting Dog, 16) Greek Sheepdog, 17) Doberman Vladika Roshini, 18) Doberman Pinscher, 19) Caucasian Shepherd Dog, 20) Dogo Canario (Presa Canario), 21) Kangal, 22) Cane Corso, 23) Kangaroo Dog, 24) Komondor, 25) Karelian Shepherd Dog, 26) Berger du Languedoc, 27) Leopard Hound, 28) Maremma and the Abruzzes Sheepdog (Maremmano-Abruzzese Sheepdog), 29) Ca de Bou (Majorca Mastiff), 30) Moscow Watchdog, 31) Mastino Neapolitano (Neapolitan Mastiff), 32) Great Dane, 33) German Shepherd, 34) Pyrenean Mountain Dog (Pyrenean Mastiff), 35) Rafeiro of Alentejo, 36) Riesenschnauzer (Giant Schnauzer), 37) Rottweiler, 38) Romanian Shepherd, 39) Central Asian Shepherd, 40) Tibetan Mastiff, 41) Japanese Tosa (Tosa Inu), 42) Uruguayan Cimarron, 43) Fila Brasileiro (Brazilian Mastiff), 44) Black Russian Terrier, 45) South Russian Shepherd. ⁷⁹ In 2025, Belarusian President Aleksandr Lukashenko signed a law, "Law on Animal Protection," which strengthened the requirements for keeping dangerous dog breeds, including requiring owners to take a special course and receive a certificate. ⁸⁰
Belgium	No		Some local government regulate certain dog breeds in Belgium. Chapelle-Lez-Herlaimont , declares the following breeds dangerous: Japanese Akita, American Staffordshire Terrier, Bandog, Bull Terrier, Dogo Argentino, Dogue de Bordeaux (French Mastiff), English Terrier, Fila Brasileiro (Brazilian Mastiff),

			Mastiff (all origins), Pit Bull Terrier, Rhodesian Ridgeback, Rottweiler, and Japanese Tosa. ⁸¹
Croatia	Yes	2008	Croatia declares dangerous: Pit Bull Terrier and any Bull Breed Terrier that "does not originate from pure breeding (FCI-pedigree dogs) and its hybrids (cross breeds)." Additionally, "all Bull Terrier-type dogs: Staffordshire Bull Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier, Bull Terrier and Miniature Bull Terrier which [do] not possess a pedigree issued by the Kennel Club of one of the member countries of the International Canine Organizations (FCI) are considered to be dangerous dogs." ^{82,83}
Denmark	Yes	1991 2010	Denmark prohibits the keeping, breeding and importation of multiple fighting breeds and livestock guarding breeds: Pit Bull Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier, American Bulldog, Japanese Tosa, Dogo Argentino, Fila Brasileiro (Brazilian Mastiff), Boerboel (South African Mastiff), Kangal, Central Asian Shepherd, Caucasian Shepherd, South Russian Shepherd, Tornjak (Croatian Shepherd Dog), and Sarplaninac (Yugoslavian Shepherd Dog). ^{84,85} The Pit Bull Terrier and Japanese Tosa have been prohibited since 1991. Notably, a provision for "savaging" was added to the Danish Act on Dogs in 2014. Whereby, "the police are obligated to euthanize a dog, if it has savaged a person or another dog in an attack."
England [D]	Yes	1991 2023	England is part of the United Kingdom and adheres to the UK Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, which prohibits five fighting breeds and any dog type that appears to be bred for fighting: American Pit Bull Terrier, Dogo Argentino, Japanese Tosa, and Fila Brasileiro (Brazilian Mastiff), and American XL Bully. ⁸⁶
Faroe Islands [D]	Yes	2004	Faroe Islands is an autonomous territory of the Kingdom of Denmark. ⁸⁷ Since April 7th, 2004, it is prohibited to import and own fighting dogs. Prohibited to import are the same breeds as in Denmark, plus additional breeds: Staffordshire Bull Terrier, Bull Terrier, Bullmastiff, Dogue de Bordeaux (French Mastiff), Mastin Espanol (Spanish Mastiff), Mastino Napoletano (Neapolitan Mastiff), Mastiff, Shar Pei, Rottweiler, Doberman Pinscher. The list is intended as a guide. ⁸⁸
France	Yes	1999 2008	A 1999 act (articles 211-1 to 211-5) created 2 classifications of dangerous dogs in France. Category 1: attack dogs (without pedigree; are the result of crossbreeding) include: Staffordshire Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier (commonly known as "pit bulls"), Mastiff (boerbulls or South African mastiff) and Tosa types (Japanese Tosa). Category 2: defense and guard dogs (with pedigree) - Staffordshire Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier,

Rottweiler, and Tosa breeds (Japanese Tosa), and dogs of a Rottweiler type (without pedigree).⁸⁹ All category 1 dogs must be neutered and registered and cannot be purchased, sold, given away or imported into France. The law came into force in January 2000 after a wave of serious attacks.^{90,91} Owners of category 1 and 2 dogs must obtain a certificate of fitness, dog behavioral assessment, liability insurance and permit.⁹² According to the France embassy in Sweden, it was later legislation—June 20, 2008 (Journal Official of 21 June 2008 (Loi n° 2008-582 du 20 juin 2008)—that required owners of category 1 and 2 dogs to hold a certificate of aptitude for keeping a dangerous animal and license. The embassy advises not to introduce category 2 dogs into France.⁹³ Most recently, in 2022, after a young pregnant woman, Elis Pilarski,⁹⁴ was killed by her purebred American Pit Bull Terrier, which is considered a category 1 dog and had been imported illegally,⁹⁵ a resolution was introduced (N 5218) to the National Assembly to strengthen the regulations on the acquisition and training of attack dogs and defense dogs.⁹⁶

Germany	Yes	2001	<p>In April 2001, Germany began prohibiting the importation of certain fighting breeds: American Pit Bull Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier, Staffordshire Bull Terrier, English Bull Terrier, and their cross breeds.⁹⁷ 15 additional breeds, suspected of being dangerous, were issued as guidance for the other federal states, including: Alano Espanol (Spanish Bulldog, Spanish Alaunt), American Bulldog, Bullmastiff, Cane Corso, Dogo Argentino, Dogue de Bordeaux (French Mastiff), Fila Brasileiro (Brazilian Mastiff), Mastiff, Mastin Espanol (Spanish Mastiff), Mastino Napoletano (Neapolitan Mastiff), Pit Bull, Bandog (Bandog), Presa Canario, Presa Mallorquin (Spanish bull breed catch dog), Rhodesian Ridgeback, and Japanese Tosa (Tosa Inu). Thus, fighting breeds regulated in the federal states, Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria, Brandenburg, Hamburg and Hesse, include pit bull breeds, and depending upon the state, may include: Rottweiler, Doberman Pinscher, Kangal Dog (Karabash), and Caucasian Shepherd Dog.⁹⁸ The legislation was enacted after two fighting pit bulls killed a 6-year old boy on a school playground in Hamburg in 2000.⁹⁹</p>
Gibraltar [D]	Yes	2003 2007	<p>Gibraltar is a British Overseas Territory.¹⁰⁰ Gibraltar prohibits the ownership and importation of multiple fighting breeds, including: Pit Bull Terrier, Japanese Tosa, American Staffordshire Bull Terrier, Fila Brasileiro (Brazilian Mastiff), and Dogo Argentino.¹⁰¹ The American Bulldog was added to the prohibition list in 2007.¹⁰²</p>

Hungary	Yes	1999 2013	According to expat and pet dog relocation websites, Hungary declares Pit Bull and Pit Bull crossbreeds to be dangerous. They cannot be imported or bred in the country. Owners must be over 18 with no criminal record, the dog must be microchipped and neutered, a warning sign must be posted on the front door of the owner's home and the dog must be leashed and muzzled when outside. ^{103,104} The Hungarian Gazette Number 71, published in 1999, states that "Pit bull terriers and all their individuals and mixes, which was classified as dangerous." ¹⁰⁵ A modification was issued in 2013, but it is unclear "which part" was repealed. ¹⁰⁶
Iceland	Yes	2020 2021	Iceland prohibits the ownership and importation of multiple fighting breeds: American Pit Bull Terrier, Staffordshire Bull Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier, American Bulldog, Japanese Tosa, Dogo Argentino (Argentine Mastiff), Fila Brasileiro (Brazilian Mastiff), and Wolfdog mixes. ¹⁰⁷ In 2021, ¹⁰⁸ Iceland added several mastiff breeds : Cane Corso, Presa Canario, Boerboel (South African Mastiff). ¹⁰⁹
Ireland	Yes	1991 1998 2024	In Ireland, dangerous dog breeds must be on a lead and muzzled when in public: American Pit Bull Terrier, Bullmastiff, Dobermann Pinscher, English Bull Terrier, German Shepherd (Alsatian), Japanese Akita, Japanese Tosa, Rhodesian Ridgeback, Rottweiler, Staffordshire Bull Terrier, and Bandog. ¹¹⁰ In 2024, Ireland banned a dangerous dog breed for the first time, the XL Bully, following horrific attacks. ¹¹¹
Isle of Man [D]	Yes	1991 2008 2024	Isle of Man is a self-governing British Crown Dependency. ¹¹² The nation prohibits the same fighting breed-types as the United Kingdom: American Pit Bull Terrier, American XL Bully, Dogo Argentino, Japanese Tosa, and Fila Brasileiro (Brazilian Mastiff). ^{113,114}
Italy "Guidance list"	No		A local restriction in Venice prohibits two dog breeds: Rottweiler and Doberman Pinscher. ¹¹⁵ From 2003 to 2009 there was a list of high-risk dog breeds created by the Italian government. A shortened version of the list, enacted in 2005, classified 17 breeds as "naturally aggressive breeds." Though the list is no longer observed, it acts as "guidance" to local governments and includes: Pit Bull, American Bulldog, Rottweiler, Japanese Tosa, Fila Brasileiro (Brazilian Mastiff), Dogo Argentino, Shepherd of Sarplaninac (Yugoslavian Shepherd Dog), Shepherd of Anatolia (Anatolian Shepherd), Central Asian Shepherd, Caucasian Shepherd, Portuguese Water Dog, Perro Majorero, Presa Canario (Dogo Canario), and Portuguese Bracco. ^{116,117} In February 2025, after a baby was killed by a family pit bull in

			Naples, members of parliament started calling for a ban on the breeding and selling of pit bulls. ¹¹⁸
Liechtenstein	Yes	2008	In 2008, ¹¹⁹ Liechtenstein declared multiple fighting breeds "potentially dangerous," requiring them to be leashed and muzzled in public, the owner cannot have convictions of violent crimes, must pass a written "expert examination" of dog behavior test, as well as acknowledgement of legal repercussions. The breeds include: American Staffordshire Terrier, Bull Terrier, Cane Corso, Doberman Pinscher, Dogo Argentino, Fila Brasileiro (Brazilian Mastiff), Mastiff, Mastin Espanol, Mastino Napoletano (Neapolitan Mastiff), Presa Canario, Rottweiler, Staffordshire Bull Terrier, Japanese Tosa, and their cross breeds. ¹²⁰
Lithuania	Yes	2002 2013	In January 2013, ¹²¹ the Director of the State Food and Veterinary Service reissued a 2002 ¹²² decree containing a list of Fighting and Dangerous Dog Breeds. Under Part 1: Fighting Breeds, the American Pit Bull Terrier is listed. Under Part II: Dangerous Dog Breeds, the following breeds are listed: American Staffordshire Terrier, Staffordshire Bull Terrier, American Bulldog, Dogo Argentino, Fila Brasileiro (Brazilian Mastiff), Kangal (Turkish Shepherd), Caucasian Shepherd, and South Russian Shepherd. Within the related documentation, is the procedure for importation, acquisition, breeding, training and keeping of fighting dogs and dangerous dogs. ¹²³ It is prohibited to import, breed, purchase, sell or transfer fighting dogs and hybrids of fighting and dangerous dogs. The keeper of a fighting dog, a hybrid of a fighting or dangerous dog must have proof the dog is vaccinated, microchipped, and registered.
Luxembourg	Yes	2008	In 2008, ¹²⁴ the Luxembourg government declared multiple fighting breeds potentially dangerous, including: American Staffordshire Terrier, Staffordshire Bull Terrier, Pit Bull, Mastiff, Japanese Tosa, Boerboel (South African Mastiff) and morphologically similar breeds. The owners must complete a specific dog training course, cannot be under the age of 18, cannot have a criminal record, and the dog must be declared to the municipal administrator where the owner resides. Sterilization may be required too. ¹²⁵
Malta	Yes	2024	In December 2024, the Malta government enacted a law (Subsidiary Legislation 439.28) banning the breeding, ownership, selling and advertising of non-pedigree "bully" breeds. ¹²⁶ A pedigree dog can only be bred with another pedigree dog. "This law aims to reduce overpopulation of bully breed mixes by prohibiting backyard breeders from breeding, advertising, and selling bully breed mix dogs," states the government's FAQ. ¹²⁷ The list of "bully breeds" includes: American Staffordshire Terrier,

			Staffordshire Bull Terrier, Bullmastiff, Dogo Argentino, Bull Terrier, American Bully, American Pitbull Terrier, Old English Bulldog, American Bulldog, English Bulldog, French Bulldog, Bull Terrier, Miniature Bull Terrier, Cane Corso, Bordeaux Mastiff, Presa Canario, Neapolitan Mastiff, Boston Terrier, Tibetan Mastiff, South African Boerboel (South African Mastiff), and mixtures thereof. ¹²⁸
Montenegro	Yes		The Republic of Montenegro, under the "Regulation on the manner for keeping of dangerous dogs," issued on May 3, 2017, states that multiple dog breeds are declared dangerous, including: Pit Bull Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier, Bull Terrier, Central Asian Shepherd, Tosa Inu, Caucasian Shepherd, Fila Brasileiro, Shar-Pei, American Bulldog, Kangal, South Russian Shepherd, Tornjak or crossbreeds of these breeds or dogs that are trained for fighting. In order to be kept by an adult (over 21 years of age), a dangerous dog breed must be sterilized, undergone training, leashed and muzzled when in public. ¹²⁹
Netherlands	No		In 2017, the Dutch government published a "guidance list" of 21 high-risk dog breeds for local governments and businesses ¹³⁰ to enact policies around. The list includes the following fighting breeds and livestock guardian breeds: Japanese Akita, American Bulldog, American Pit Bull Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier, Boerboel (South African Mastiff), Bullmastiff, Bull Terrier, Cane Corso, Dogo Argentino, Dogo Canario, Staffordshire Bull Terrier, Rottweiler, Japanese Tosa, Fila Brasileiro (Brazilian Mastiff), Anatolian Shepherd, South Russian Shepherd (South Russian Ovcharka), Caucasian Ovcharka, Pit Bull Types (all crosses with a pit bull: Pocket Bully, Micro Bully, Pocket Pit Bull, Extreme Pocket Bully, Regular Bully, Regular Pit Bull, XL and XXL Pit Bull, XL and XXL Bully, Rednose Pit Bull, Rednose Bully), Bully Kutta, Alano Espanol (Spanish Bulldog, Spanish Alaunt), Bandog. ¹³¹ From 1993 to 2008, the Netherlands prohibited pit bull-type dogs. This law was repealed in 2009. ¹³²
"Guidance list" <i>(Excluded from analysis)</i>			
Northern Ireland	Yes	1991 2023	Northern Ireland is part of the United Kingdom and adheres to the UK Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, which prohibits five fighting breeds and any dog type that appears to be bred for fighting: American Pit Bull Terrier, Dogo Argentino, Japanese Tosa, and Fila Brasileiro (Brazilian Mastiff), and American XL Bully. ¹³³
[D]			
Norway	Yes	2004	Norway prohibits the ownership and importation of multiple fighting breeds and a wolfdog breed: Pit Bull Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier, Fila Brasileiro (Brazilian Mastiff), Japanese Tosa, Dogo Argentino, and Czechoslovakian Wolfdog. ^{134,135}

Poland	Yes	1997 2003	In 1997, the Poland government enacted the Animal Protection Act, ¹³⁶ which contained a list of "aggressive dog breeds," which falls under the regulation of the Ministry of Interior and Administration. The list, revised in 2003, includes: American Pit Bull Terrier, Perro de Presa Mallorquin, American Bulldog, Dogo Argentino, Perro de Presa Canario, Japanese Tosa (Tosa Inu), Rottweiler, Akbash, Anatolian Karabash (Anatolian Shepherd), Moscow Watchdog, and Caucasian Shepherd Dog. Breeding or the owning of these dog breeds requires registration and permission from local authorities. ¹³⁷
Portugal	Yes	2003 2008	In 2003, the Portugal government declared multiple dog breeds "potentially dangerous" under article 2 of Decree-Law no. 312/2003, of 17 December: Fila Brasileiro (Brazilian Mastiff), Dogo Argentino (Argentine Dane), Pit Bull Terrier, Rottweiler, American Staffordshire Terrier, Staffordshire Bull Terrier, and Japanese Tosa (Tosa Inu). ¹³⁸ In 2008, the government began prohibiting the importation and breeding of these 7 breeds. ¹³⁹
Romania	Yes	2002	Governmental Emergency Ordinance No. 55 of 2002, which was revised in 2013 to approve a stray dogs management program ¹⁴⁰ , declared multiple dog breeds dangerous, requiring restrictions for: Pit Bull, Boerboel (South African Mastiff), Bandog, American Staffordshire Terrier, Staffordshire Bull Terrier, Rottweiler, Japanese Tosa, Neapolitan Mastiff, Dogo Argentino, Caucasian Shepherd. The importation of fighting breeds—Pit Bull, Boerboel (South African Mastiff), and Bandog—is prohibited. ¹⁴¹ Multiple breeds are required to be muzzled in public, including: Ciobanesc (Romanian Shepherd Dog), ¹⁴² Belgian Malinois, German Shepherd, Doberman Pinscher, Presa Canario, Komondor, Giant Schnauzer, and Kuvasz (Kuvaz). ¹⁴³
Russia	Yes	2011 2019	In 2011, the State Duma drafted a law that regulates animals. Included was a list of potentially dangerous dog breeds: American Pit Bull Terrier, Caucasian Shepherd Dog, Boerboel (South African Mastiff), Karelian Bear Dog, Anatolian Shepherd, American Staffordshire Terrier, Alabai (Central Asian Shepherd), and crosses of these breeds. Owners are required to pass a training course, and the dogs must be muzzled when outside. ¹⁴⁴ In 2018, Russian president Vladimir Putin signed into law, "Law on Responsible Treatment of Animals." ¹⁴⁵ In 2019, the list of dangerous dog breeds for the act was finalized, and includes more breeds, such as: American Bandog, American Bulldog, Campeiro Bulldog, Bully Kutta (Pakistani Mastiff), Otto Bulldog (Alapaha Blue Blood Bulldog), Wolfdog, Gull Dong, and Bullmastiff. ¹⁴⁶

Scotland [D]	Yes	1991 2024	Scotland is part of the United Kingdom and adheres to the UK Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 under their own act—Control of dogs (Scotland) Act 2010). The act prohibits five fighting breeds and any dog type that appears to be bred for fighting: American Pit Bull Terrier, Dogo Argentino, Japanese Tosa, and Fila Brasileiro (Brazilian Mastiff), and American XL Bully. ^{147,148}
Spain	Yes	2002	In 2002, Royal Decree 2872002 (Law 50/1999) was issued that restricts multiple dangerous dog breeds. Ownership requires registration, being of legal age, having no previous criminal sanctions, passing a psychological test, liability insurance, and more. The restricted breeds include: Pit Bull, Staffordshire Bull Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier, Rottweiler, Dogo Argentino, Fila Brasileiro (Brazilian Mastiff), Japanese Tosa, and Japanese Akita. ¹⁴⁹ Regions within Spain, such as Catalonia , have also added breeds to the list, including: Doberman Pinscher, French Mastiff, and Presa Canario. ¹⁵⁰
Switzerland	No		Multiple cantons in Switzerland have breed restriction laws, including Zurich , Wallis , and Geneva , which prohibit dangerous dog breeds. The canton of Zurich prohibits certain fighting breeds: American Bull Terrier, American Bully, American Bully XL, Pit Bull (all types), American Pocket Bully, American Staffordshire Terrier, Bandog, Bull Terrier, Staffordshire Bull Terrier, Swiss Blue Bully and Swiss Champagner Bully. ^{151,152} In late 2024, government officials began discussing if rottweilers should be included on the Breed-Type List II. ¹⁵³ In late December, it was announced that the rottweiler ban will come into effect on January 1, 2025. ¹⁵⁴ The canton of Geneva also prohibits the fighting breeds and dangerous dog breeds: American Staffordshire Terrier, Boerboel (South African Mastiff), Bullmastiff, Cane Corso, Dogo Argentino, Dogue de Bordeaux (French Mastiff), Fila Brasileiro (Brazilian Mastiff), Mastin Espanol (Spanish Mastiff), Neapolitan Mastiff, Pit Bull, Presa Canario, Rottweiler, Thai Ridgeback, and Japanese Tosa. ^{155,156} Some cantons also require mandatory liability insurance for the owners of these breeds and/or all dog breeds. ¹⁵⁷
Ukraine	Yes	2002 2021	In 2002, an extended list of 88 dangerous dog breeds was established. In 2021, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine updated the list, reducing the number of breeds, including but not limited to: Akbash, American Bandog, Otto Bulldog (Alapaha Blue Blood Bulldog), Malorsky Bulldog (Majorca Mastiff), Bullmastiff, Caucasian Shepherd, Mid-Asian, Estrelian and Eastern European Shepherd, Doberman Pinscher, Dog Argentino, Kangal, multiple mastiff breeds, Moscow Watchdog, American Pit Bull Terrier,

			American Staffordshire Terrier, Staffordshire Bull Terrier, Japanese Tosa, Boerboel (South African Mastiff), and their cross-breeds. ¹⁵⁸ Municipalities also regulate dangerous dog breeds. In 1998, Kyiv prohibited from importation and breeding (subject to unconditional sterilization) a list of dangerous dog breeds including: Akbash, American Pit Bull Terrier, Daufman Shepherd, Mountain Hound, Greek Shepherd, Alec Roshin's Doberman, Presa Canario, Kangal, Kangaroo Dog, Languedoc Sheepdog, Leopard Hound, Romanian Shepherd, and others. ¹⁵⁹
United Kingdom		1991	The United Kingdom prohibits four fighting breed-types in the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991: American Pit Bull Terrier, Dogo Argentino, Japanese Tosa, and Fila Brasileiro (Brazilian Mastiff) ¹⁶⁰ In late 2023, the American XL Bully was added to the Act after escalating fatal attacks. ^{161,162} In 2024, the High Court of Justice upheld the validity of the XL Bully prohibition after it was challenged in <i>Coulthard and Anor v. SSEFRA</i> . ¹⁶³
<i>(Excluded from analysis; each country within the UK is counted separately)</i>		2023	
Wales	Yes	1991	Wales is part of the United Kingdom and adheres to the UK Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, which prohibits five fighting breeds and any dog type that appears to be bred for fighting: American Pit Bull Terrier, Dogo Argentino, Japanese Tosa, and Fila Brasileiro (Brazilian Mastiff), and American XL Bully. ¹⁶⁴
[D]		2023	
Latin America & Caribbean			
Antigua and Barbuda	Yes	2006	According to the Antigua and Barbuda Veterinary and Livestock Division, dogs of the "pit bull" breed are not allowed to land on Antigua and Barbuda. Any owner hoping to try to must have a certificate from a recognized kennel club, which verifies the dog is not of this breed. ¹⁶⁵
Argentina	No		In 2010, the province of Buenos Aires passed Law 14,107 which declares multiple fighting breeds "potentially dangerous," including: Japanese Akita, American Staffordshire Terrier, Bullmastiff, Bull Terrier, Doberman Pinscher, Dogo Argentino, Dogue de Bordeaux (French Mastiff), Fila Brasileiro (Brazilian Mastiff), Japanese Tosa (Great Japanese Dog), Neapolitan Mastiff, Pit Bull Terrier, Presa Canario, Rottweiler, and Staffordshire Bull Terrier. ¹⁶⁶
Bahamas	Yes	1990s	During the 1990s, the Bahamas government prohibited the importation of pit bulls, but still allowed for the domestic breeding of them. ^{167,168} Currently, the government prohibits the import of multiple fighting breeds: Pit Bull Terrier, Presa Canario, Cane Corso, American Bully, Staffordshire Terrier, and Dogo Argentino. ^{169,170} Starting in 2022, a nationwide discussion began

			about the importation ban not being adequate, "a mere ban on the import of the dog breed is not enough," ¹⁷¹ and that unsecured pit bulls are cross breeding with local Potcake dogs, ¹⁷² making this island breed dangerous as well. ¹⁷³
Brazil	No		In 2005, the state of Rio de Janeiro prohibited dangerous dog breeds from beaches and public streets during certain hours of the day, including: Pit Bull, Rottweiler, Doberman Pinscher, and Fila Brasileiro (Brazilian Mastiff). The law ¹⁷⁴ also prohibited the breeding, importing, and selling of pit bulls and made pit bull sterilization compulsory. ¹⁷⁵ Other states in Brazil, such as Santa Catarina and Minas Gerais , also prohibit the breeding and selling of pit bulls. ¹⁷⁶
Cayman Islands [D]	Yes	2002	Cayman Islands is a self-governing British Overseas Territory. ¹⁷⁷ Under the Animals Law of the Cayman Islands, multiple fighting breeds are prohibited: Pit Bull Terrier and its breed types; Dogo Argentino and its breed types; Japanese Tosa and its breed types; and "any breed of dog or crossbreed of dog whose breeding lineage was for the primary purpose of fighting." ¹⁷⁸ The original act, published in 2002, contained additional dog breeds. ¹⁷⁹
Colombia	Yes	2002	Colombia declares multiple dog breeds potentially dangerous: American Staffordshire Terrier, Bullmastiff, Doberman Pinscher, Dogo Argentino, Dogue de Bordeaux (French Mastiff), Fila Brasileiro (Brazilian Mastiff) Neapolitan Mastiff, Pit Bull Terrier, American Pit Bull Terrier, Presa Canario (Canary Dog), Rottweiler, Staffordshire Terrier, and Japanese Tosa. Law 746 of 2002, Article 108E ¹⁸⁰ prohibits the importation of pit bull breeds: "Given its high level of danger, it is prohibited to import canine specimens of the Staffordshire Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier, Pit Bull Terrier, American Pit Bull Terrier, or canine product of crosses or hybrids of these breeds, as well as the establishment of breeding centers of this kind of canine specimens in the national territory." ^{181.182}
Ecuador	Yes	2009	In 2009, the Ecuador Health and Agriculture Ministries prohibited Rottweilers and Pit Bulls as pets. ¹⁸³ Under this regulation, dogs of the Pit Bull and Rottweiler breeds are considered dangerous. They cannot be "pets" unless the owner obtains the corresponding permission from the Department of Criminalistics of the National Police. ^{184.185}
Grenada	Yes	2002	In 2002, the Grenada government enacted the Dogs (Registration and Control) Act Cap. 83B that designated multiple fighting breeds dangerous: Pit Bull Terrier, Staffordshire Bull Terrier,

			<p>American Staffordshire Terrier, American Bull Terrier or any mixed-breed dogs which can be "identified as partially of any of those breeds;" Fila Brasileiro (Brazilian Mastiff), Japanese Tosa, and any dog designated as dangerous by a court. Dangerous Dogs must be licensed, sterilized, wear a special collar, and carry liability insurance.¹⁸⁶ In 2017, the government cracked down on the breeding and selling of dangerous dog breeds. Health officials reminded the public, "A person convicted of illegally breeding dangerous dogs can be fined a maximum of EC\$10,000 and/or serve jail time of 6 months."¹⁸⁷</p>
Jamaica	Yes		<p>The Jamaica government prohibits the importation of the four primary fighting breeds: Dogo Argentino, Fila Brasileiro (Brazilian Mastiff), Japanese Tosa, and Pit Bull Terrier.^{188,189}</p>
Saint Kitts and Nevis	Yes	2001	<p>In Saint Kitts and Nevis, the 2001 Dangerous Dog Act¹⁹⁰ required that dangerous dogs, such as Pit Bulls, are licensed and that owners obtain insurance policies. A 2017 edition of the Act shows that multiple fighting breeds are designated as dangerous and prohibited from importation, including: American Bulldog, "Caincaso" (Cane Corso), Dog Argentino, Fila Brasileiro (Brazilian Mastiff), Japanese Tosa, Pit Bull Terrier, Presa Canario, Staffordshire Terrier, and any crossbreed of them. Owners of dangerous dog breeds must comply with strict rules, including leashed and muzzled when in public, a secure wall or fencing, and secure gate. Failure to comply can result in stiff fines.¹⁹¹</p>
Saint Lucia	Yes	2003	<p>In 2003, the St Lucian Government presented the Animals Act¹⁹² which prohibited the importation of dogs it classified as fighting dogs or dangerous dogs, such as: Doberman Pinscher, Rottweiler, Rhodesian Ridgeback, Japanese Akita, Bullmastiff, and German Shepherd. Any person who owns a fighting dog must have it sterilized within three months of their birth.¹⁹³ Most pet travel websites state the following fighting breeds are prohibited from importation: Pit Bull Terrier, Bull Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier, Staffordshire Bull Terrier or British Staffordshire Terrier, Japanese Tosa, Dogo Argentino, Fila Brasileiro (Brazilian Mastiff), and crosses of these breeds.¹⁹⁴</p>
Sint (Saint) Maarten [D]	Yes		<p>Sint Maarten is a constituent country of the Netherlands. Pit bulls are prohibited entrance into this country.^{195,196} The island is comprised of two nations, the Dutch side (Sint Maarten) and the French side (Saint Martin), with separate governments. Both ports of entry, the island's airport and cruise port, are located in Sint Maarten.¹⁹⁷</p>

Trinidad and Tobago	Yes	2014	The Dog Control Act of 2014—which repealed the Dangerous Dog Act of 2000 that was never proclaimed ¹⁹⁸ —created restrictions for "Class A" dogs, which includes: American Pit Bull Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier, American Bully, Dogo Argentino, Japanese Tosa, and Fila Brasileiro. Class A dogs must be registered, licensed, secured, carry an insurance policy, and microchipped. If an owner cannot fulfill these duties, the Ministry will take possession of the dog; and the dog can be euthanized. If a Class A dog injures or kills a person, the owner is subject to 5 and 10 years of imprisonment, respectively, as well as \$100,000 to \$200,000 in fines. ^{199,200}
Turks & Caicos Islands [D]	Yes	2005 2024	Turks and Caicos Islands are a British Overseas Territory. ²⁰¹ Under the Dog Control Ordinance (Ordinance 12 of 2005), ²⁰² multiple fighting breeds are prohibited entry into the islands: Dogo Argentino, American Pit Bull Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier, American Bulldog, Japanese Tosa, Presa Canario (Canary dog), and Fila Brasileiro (Brazilian Mastiff). ²⁰³ Over the years, several more dangerous dog breeds were added. ²⁰⁴ In 2024, these breeds were moved to the "restricted breed" list, requiring a special license. Failure to license can result in a \$10,000 fine. Further, "A person, including the carrier agent, captain or pilot of a vessel, who facilitates the importation of dogs on the restricted breed list without the necessary documents," can be fined \$20,000 and face 12 months in prison. The restricted breed list now includes: Appenzeller, American Bulldog, American Pit Bull Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier, Aryan Molossus, Bandog, Beaveeron, Belgian Mastiff, Bullmastiff, Presa Canario (Canary Dog), Danish Broholmer, Dogue de Bordeaux (French Mastiff), Fila Brasileiro (Brazilian Mastiff), Greater Swiss Mountain Dog, Japanese Tosa, Jindo, Kuvasz (Kuvaz), Leonberger, Moscow Watchdog, Neapolitan Mastiff, Roman Fighting Dog, Rottweiler, Boerboel (South African Mastiff), and Tibetan Mastiff. ²⁰⁵
Venezuela	Yes	2010 2014	Law 29,228 of 2010 on the Protection of Free and Captive Domestic Fauna is the main animal welfare legislation in Venezuela. The law restricted the ownership and possession of pit bulls. It became forbidden to import, reproduce, adopt, raise and market the pit bull, a name that usually includes at least two breeds of dogs: American Pit Bull Terrier and American Staffordshire Terrier. The prohibitions were set to go into effect in 2014. ²⁰⁶ Various pet importation websites state the following breeds cannot be imported into Venezuela: American Pit Bull Terrier, Bull Terrier, Staffordshire Bull Terrier, American

Staffordshire Terrier, Doberman Pinscher, Rottweiler, Argentinian Mastiff, Fila Brasileiro (Brazilian Mastiff), and Japanese Tosa.²⁰⁷

North America

Bermuda [D]	Yes	2003 2018	<p>Bermuda is a British Overseas Territory.²⁰⁸ In 2003,²⁰⁹ the government enacted a breed restriction policy prohibiting the importation of certain fighting breeds, including: American Pit Bull Terrier, American Bulldog, American Staffordshire Terrier, Dogo Argentino, Boerboel (South African Mastiff), Fila Brasileiro (Brazilian Mastiff), Cane Corso, Neapolitan Mastiff, Presa Canario, Japanese Tosa, Wolf, Wolf Hybrid and any crosses of these breeds. A restricted breed list was also created that allowed individuals to apply to have their dog imported, including: Bull Terrier, Bullmastiff, Dogue de Bordeaux (French Mastiff), Rottweiler, and other breeds.²¹⁰ In 2018, American Bulldog, American Pit Bull terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier were removed from the ban list and placed on the "restricted" list under the Dogs Amendment Act.²¹¹ By 2022, <i>The Royal Gazette</i> reported that pit bull attacks soared.²¹² In a follow-up article, <i>The Gazette</i> reported that "Pit bulls were involved in more than half of all dog-related incidents since 2017." Specifically, "since the start of 2017, the Government has received a total of 384 incidents of dog attacks or behaving in a threatening manner. Of those, 218 involved pit bulls—seven times more than any other" breed."²¹³ As of February 2025, there continues to be a prohibited, and a "restricted" breed list that includes: Japanese Akita, Australian Cattle Dog, American Bulldog, American Pit Bull Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier, Belgian Malinois, Bouvier des Flandres, Bull Terrier, Bullmastiff, Cão de Fila de São Miguel (Azorean Cattle Dog), Chow Chow, Doberman Pinscher, Dogue de Bordeaux, Shepherd (all breeds thereof), English Mastiff, Rhodesian Ridgeback, Rottweiler, Olde English Bulldogge (Old English Bulldog), Staffordshire Bull Terrier and any crossbreed of the above.²¹⁴</p>
Canada	No		<p>Numerous municipalities in Canada prohibit the American Pit Bull Terrier, Staffordshire Bull Terrier, and American Staffordshire Terrier, including Winnipeg, which also prohibits American Bully dogs.²¹⁵ The largest region to implement these dog controls is the Province of Ontario (city of Toronto), which banned four pit bull breeds under the Ontario Dog Owners' Liability Act in 2005.²¹⁶</p>
Greenland [D]	Yes	2004	<p>Greenland is an autonomous territory of the Kingdom of Denmark.²¹⁷ Greenland prohibits certain fighting breeds and livestock guardian breeds, similar to Denmark: Pit Bull Terrier,</p>

			<p>Japanese Tosa, American Staffordshire Terrier, Fila Brasileiro (Brazilian Mastiff), Dogo Argentino, American Bulldog, Boerboel (South African Mastiff), Kangal, Central Asian Shepherd, Caucasian Shepherd Dog (Caucasian Ovcharka), South Russian Shepherd (South Russian Ovcharka), Tornjak (Croatian Shepherd Dog), Sarplaninac (Yugoslavian Shepherd Dog). Additionally, only sled dog breeds are permitted in the sled dog district. The only exception is for service dogs, such as police dogs.²¹⁸</p>
United States	No		<p>A 2021 analysis estimated that 1200 jurisdictions in the United States regulated dangerous dog breeds.²¹⁹ Over 95% of these laws include the American Pit Bull Terrier, followed by Rottweiler, 13%, Wolf-Dog Hybrid, 11%, Doberman Pinscher, 5%, Presa Canario, 4%, Chow Chow, 4%, American Bulldog, 2%, Cane Corso, 2%, Mastiff variations, 2%, and Dogo Argentino, 2%. Breeds named in 1% or fewer ordinances were excluded from the analysis.²²⁰</p>
Oceania			
Australia	Yes	2011	<p>Australia prohibits the importation of multiple fighting breeds, including: Dogo Argentino, Fila Brasileiro (Brazilian Mastiff) Japanese Tosa, American Pit Bull Terrier, Perro de Presa Canario or Presa Canario.²²¹ Multiple states restrict these fighting breeds. In 2024, the state of Queensland prohibited: Dogo Argentino, Fila Brasileiro (Brazilian Mastiff), Japanese Tosa, American Pit Bull Terrier, and the Perro de Presa Canario or Presa Canario.²²² The state of Victoria restricts: American Pit Bull Terrier (Pit Bull Terrier), Perro de Presa Canario (Presa Canario), Dogo Argentino, Japanese Tosa, and Fila Brasileiro (Brazilian Mastiff).²²³ The state of New South Wales restricts the same fighting breeds under the Companion Animals Act 1998 No 87.²²⁴</p>
Cook Islands [D]	Yes	1991	<p>The Cook Islands, which is self-governing while in free association with New Zealand, prohibits the ownership and importation of certain dangerous dog breeds: American Staffordshire Terrier, Staffordshire Terrier, Pit Bull Terrier, Bulldog, Doberman Pinscher, and Rottweiler. Police issued a reminder to travelers in 2024 after six recent dog attacks.^{225,226}</p>
Fiji	Yes		<p>According to a 2017 order from the Regulation and Assurance Branch, Animal and Animal Products Directorate, Fiji prohibits the importation of multiple fighting breeds: Dogo Argentino, Fila</p>

			Brasileiro (Brazilian Mastiff) Japanese Tosa, Pit Bull Terrier, and pit bull-mixes. 227,228
French Polynesia [D]	Yes		French Polynesia is an overseas collectivity of France and has a dangerous dog law similar to France. Multiple fighting breeds cannot be imported: Staffordshire Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier, Japanese Tosa and Mastiff. 229 These (Category 1) breeds are declared dangerous and can only enter the country if it has a pedigree issued by an organization recognized by the International Federation of Cynologists (FCI), including: American Staffordshire Terrier, American Pit Bull Terrier, Mastiff (commonly known as "boerbulls" or South African mastiff), and Japanese Tosa. 230,231
New Zealand	Yes	1996	New Zealand classifies multiple fighting breeds as "menacing" 232 and prohibits their importation: American Pit Bull Terrier, Dogo Argentino, Fila Brasileiro (Brazilian Mastiff), Japanese Tosa, and Presa Canario. 233
Niue [D]	Yes		Niue is self-governing island in free association with New Zealand. The following fighting breeds cannot be imported: American Pit Bull Terrier, Dogo Argentino, Japanese Tosa, and Brazilian Fila. 234
Papua New Guinea	Yes		Papua New Guinea prohibits the importation of the primary fighting breeds and other dangerous dogs: Pit Bull Terrier, American Pit Bull Terrier, Japanese Tosa, Dogo Argentino, Fila Brasileiro (Brazilian Mastiff), Australian Dingo, Wolf and Wolfdog hybrids, Presa Canario, Cane Corso, Alano Espanol (Spanish Bulldog, Spanish Alaunt), and Dogue de Bordeaux (French Mastiff). 235
Vanuatu	Yes		The Republic of Vanuatu prohibits the importation of the primary fighting breeds: Pit Bull Terrier or American Pit Bull, Japanese Tosa, Fila Brasileiro (Brazilian Mastiff), Dogo Argentino or Presa Canario.

Additional Notes

The country of Puerto Rico revoked its ban on the owning, breeding, and selling of pit bulls in **2018**.[236](#) During the **2015-2016** legislative session in Panama, Bill 281[237](#) was introduced that declared 14 potentially dangerous dog breeds, including: American Staffordshire Terrier, Staffordshire Bull Terrier, and Pit Bull Terrier. In **2008**, the government of Guyana placed a temporary ban on the importation of pit bulls and rottweilers.[238](#) Despite pressure from local media, no permanent legislation followed.[239](#) Latvia's Cabinet of Ministers Regulations No. 349,

enacted in **2001**, banned multiple fighting breeds: Pit Bull Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier, Dogo Argentino, Fila Brasileiro (Brazilian Mastiff), Japanese Tosa, and their cross breeds. The following year, the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Latvia overturned the regulations stating the dog breeds could only be added to the Animal Protection Law.^{[240](#),[241](#)} In December **2001**, the capital of Honduras, Tegucigalpa, banned the American Pit Bull Terrier. Mayor Vilma de Castellanos said, "It is essential to control these dogs, which have caused such damage, pain and sorrow among the residents of the capital." Tegucigalpa and its surrounding villages encompassed 2 million people then. It is unknown if the law is still in effect.^{[242](#)} When the United Kingdom passed the Dangerous Dogs Act **1991**, presumably all British overseas territories did as well. Currently, the dangerous dog laws, import requirements and territory status for the British territories of Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, Montserrat and Falkland Islands have not been researched for this document.^{[243](#)}



Photographs of the most frequent dangerous dog breeds restricted by governments worldwide.

- ¹ Lenin Ndebele, "DRC government moves to regulate breeding, ownership of boerboels and pit bulls," News 24, April 23, 2024, accessed: December 3, 2024 (<https://www.news24.com/news24/africa/news/drc-government-moves-to-regulate-breeding-ownership-of-boerboels-and-pit-bulls-20240423>)
- ² Sarah Elhosary, "Dog breed ban sparks controversy," Ahram Online, June 13, 2023, accessed: May 8, 2024 (<https://english.ahram.org/NewsContent/50/1208/502963/Ahram-Weekly/Features/Dog-breed-ban-sparks-controversy.aspx>)
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