
The final language of the reconciled NDAA that President Trump signed into law did not contain a “breed-neutral” mandate. Clearly, VanKavage, a top paid lobbyist for pit bull causes, never bothered to read the reconciled version of the Act. This is a failure of due diligence on her part. The removal of the “breed-neutral” mandate was in part due to advocacy by Responsible Citizens for Public Safety (RC4PS.org) and DogsBite.org.¹ Learn more about the founder of RC4PS.org, Ann Marie Rogers, in an editorial she wrote in our series: Perspectives of Advocates.

Attached is the reconciled version of the NDAA that was signed into law.

THE BELOW IS FALSE AND A FAILURE OF DUE DILIGENCE

Ledy VanKavage: “Another exciting thing is the military Authorization Act that um President Trump vetoed, but they overrode it. Basically has a provision that the Department of Defense has to promulgate rules that allow dogs on bases and they won’t be able to discriminate against breeds anymore.”

Bruce Dickey: “Oh really?”

Ledy VanKavage: “Yes. So that was a huge victory, and um that we’ve worked many years on. And yeah and so they’re supposed to promulgate the rules and regulations by March 31st. Um, I was just on a call with Senator Duckworth’s office on Friday and they haven’t seen any proposed regs yet, so she is sending an on-demand letter asking them to do it in time.”

Language Signed into Law

SEC. 2884. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE POLICY FOR REGULATION IN MILITARY COMMUNITIES OF DANGEROUS DOGS KEPT AS PETS.

(a) POLICY REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall establish a uniform policy for the regulation of dangerous dogs kept as pets in military communities.

(b) CONSULTATION.—The policy required by subsection (a) shall be developed in consultation with professional veterinary and animal behavior experts in regard to effective regulation of dangerous dogs kept as pets.

(c) REGULATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall prescribe regulations implementing the policy established under subsection (a).

(2) BEST PRACTICES.—The regulations prescribed under paragraph (1) shall include strategies, for implementation within all military communities, for the prevention of dog bites that are consistent with the following best practices:

(A) Enforcement of regulations relating to dangerous dogs kept as pets, with emphasis on identification of dangerous dog behavior and chronically irresponsible pet owners.

(B) Enforcement of animal control regulations, such as leash laws and stray animal control policies.

(C) Promotion and communication of resources for pet spaying and neutering.

Pre-Reconciliation

SEC. 2863. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE POLICY FOR REGULATION OF DANGEROUS DOGS IN MILITARY COMMUNITIES.

(a) POLICY REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, through the Veterinary Service Activity of the Department of Defense, shall establish a standardized policy applicable across all military communities for the regulation of dangerous dogs that is—

(1) breed-neutral; and

(2) consistent with advice from professional veterinary and animal behavior experts in regard to effective regulation of dangerous dogs.

(b) REGULATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall prescribe regulations implementing the policy established under subsection (a).

(2) BEST PRACTICES.—The regulations prescribed under paragraph (1) shall include strategies, for implementation within all military communities, for the prevention of dog bites that are consistent with the following best practices:

(A) Enforcement of comprehensive, nonbreed-specific regulations relating to dangerous dogs, with emphasis on identification of dangerous dog behavior and chronically irresponsible owners.

(B) Enforcement of animal control regulations, such as leash laws and stray animal control policies.

(C) Promotion and communication of resources for pet spaying and neutering.

DogsBite.org: Some dogs don’t let go.
this section, including a description and assessment of the
effect of the taking into account of the considerations
specified in this section on particular basing decisions in
the United States during the one-year period ending on
the date of the briefing.

(j) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “covered military unit” means a
unit of the Armed Forces whose initial assignment
to a military installation or relocation from a mili-
tary installation to a different military installation
requires the preparation of an environmental impact
statement in accordance with the National Environ-

(2) The term “major headquarters” means the
headquarters of a unit of the Armed Forces or com-
mand that is the appropriate command of a general
officer or flag officer.

SEC. 2884. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE POLICY FOR REGU-
LATION IN MILITARY COMMUNITIES OF DAN-
GEROUS DOGS KEPT AS PETS.

(a) POLICY REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days after
the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
Defense shall establish a uniform policy for the regulation
of dangerous dogs kept as pets in military communities.
(b) Consultation.—The policy required by subsection (a) shall be developed in consultation with professional veterinary and animal behavior experts in regard to effective regulation of dangerous dogs kept as pets.

(c) Regulations.—

(1) In general.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall prescribe regulations implementing the policy established under subsection (a).

(2) Best practices.—The regulations prescribed under paragraph (1) shall include strategies, for implementation within all military communities, for the prevention of dog bites that are consistent with the following best practices:

(A) Enforcement of regulations relating to dangerous dogs kept as pets, with emphasis on identification of dangerous dog behavior and chronically irresponsible pet owners.

(B) Enforcement of animal control regulations, such as leash laws and stray animal control policies.

(C) Promotion and communication of resources for pet spaying and neutering.

(D) Investment in community education initiatives, such as teaching criteria for pet se-
lection, pet care best practices, owner responsibilities, and safe and appropriate interaction with dogs.

(d) EXCLUSIONS.—This section does not apply with respect to military working dogs and any dog certified as a service animal.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “dangerous dog” means a dog that—

(A) has attacked a person or another animal without justification, causing injury or death to the person or animal; or

(B) exhibits behavior that reasonably suggests the likely risk of such an attack.

(2) The term “military communities” means—

(A) all military installations; and

(B) all military housing, including privatized military housing under subchapter IV of chapter 169 of title 10, United States Code.

TITLE XXIX—OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS MILITARY CONSTRUCTION

Sec. 2901. Authorized Navy construction and land acquisition projects.
Sec. 2902. Authorized Air Force construction and land acquisition projects.
Sec. 2903. Authorization of appropriations.