



## Washington law to end breed-wide bans on 'dangerous' dogs

by KOMO News Staff  
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Ildar Sagdejev / Wikimedia / MGN

<p>Pit bull (Photo: MGN Online){/p}

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OLYMPIA, Wash. — Dog owners rejoice.

Come the new year, owners in Washington state may avoid breed restrictions if they can prove their pooch is well-behaved.

Breed bans target larger, more muscular dogs that have stereotyped some breeds as being dangerous, like pitbulls and rottweilers.

The legislative bill grants dog owners the choice to avoid this ban if their four-legged friend successfully completes the American Kennel Club's Canine Citizen program or a similar test determined by the city or county. The program tests whether an animal will react aggressively to strangers, being petted, and interacting with other dogs.

Local jurisdictions may still enforce breed bans but have to exempt dogs that pass the test. Dogs who successfully pass the test are exempt for at least two years. Dog who fail the test at first may retest after a reasonable amount of time.

The law will go into effect January 1.

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