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## Most back pit bull ban

Six of 10 Ontarians want the breed of dog 'off the streets,' a provincial survey finds

By [ANTONELLA ARTUSO](#), QUEEN'S PARK BUREAU CHIEF

A MAJORITY of Ontarians would support a ban on pit bulls, according to an SES poll obtained by Sun Media. Nik Nanos, president and CEO of SES Research, said Ontarians, horrified by recent reports of ferocious attacks, have very strong feelings about the controversial canine.

"I think the clear message is that a majority of Ontarians -- almost six out of every 10 -- want the pit bull breed of dog off the streets," Nanos said. "There's a certain image of the pit bull and it's not positive."

Forty-two percent of people polled said they would "strongly support" a ban on pit bulls, while 16% "somewhat support" such action.

Another 15% "strongly oppose" the ban while 11% "somewhat oppose" it. Fourteen percent were unsure.

Attorney General Michael Bryant is considering introducing legislation to ban pit bulls in Ontario. Several cities are contemplating similar action.

Bryant launched the consultations after a Toronto man was nearly torn apart last August by a friend's two pit bulls. Police could only stop the attacks by fatally shooting the animals.

At a recent round-table discussion at Queen's Park, pit bull fans rallied round the much-maligned dog, blaming irresponsible owners for the problems.

Nanos said their views don't reflect those of the majority of Ontarians.

"I don't think we should confuse the presentations of pit bull owners with the opinions of Ontarians -- there's obviously a silent majority out there that have a problem with pit bulls," he said.

Bryant is expected to make a decision on a provincewide ban by the end of the year.

The SES Research poll was conducted on Sept. 11-12 with 500 eligible voters. Results of the survey are accurate to within 4.5 percentage points, plus or minus, 19 times out of 20.

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### BAN THE BEAST?

Would you support or oppose a law that would ban owning the pit bull breed of dog?

- Strongly support 42%
- Somewhat support 16%
- Somewhat oppose 11%
- Strongly oppose 15%
- Unsure 14%

- No answer/refused 1%