

Shri Bhupendra Patel,
Hon'ble Chief Minister,
Government of Gujarat,
3rd floor, Swarnim Sankul – 1,
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Gandhinagar 382010

15 May 2025

Subject: Urgent request for a statewide prohibition on pit bulls, Rottweilers and other foreign dog breeds bred for aggression and attacks, following a fatal attack by a Rottweiler in Gujarat

Respected Chief Minister,

I am writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India and our more than 2 million members and supporters to urgently follow up on our request dated 11 December 2024 ([Annexure 1](#)) that **the Gujarat government take decisive action to prohibit the breeding, selling, and keeping of pit bulls, Rottweilers, and other foreign dog breeds specifically bred for fighting and aggression.** This renewed appeal follows a recent incident in Ahmedabad where a Rottweiler fatally mauled a 4-month-old baby girl ([Annexure 2](#)).

The Union Territory of Chandigarh ([Annexure 3](#)) and the State of Goa ([Annexure 4](#)) are finalising prohibitions on the breeding, selling, and keeping of pit bull-like dogs bred for aggression and attack. And previously, Kanpur, Ghaziabad, and Panchkula Municipal Corporations were among the first cities in India to implement rules on keeping pit bulls and Rottweilers within city limits ([Annexure 5, 6 and 7](#)).

It should also be noted that since the start of this year, there have already been numerous other reported dog attacks. In Noida a pit bull attacked a shelter worker so brutally on the leg that he had to be hospitalised ([Annexure 8](#)); and in Mumbai, a 37-year-old woman was brutally assaulted by a pit bull and a Doberman and had to get her nose reconstructed ([Annexure 9](#)). In Goa a Rottweiler attacked a man on the street and bit him on his leg ([Annexure 10](#)) an abandoned pit bull attacked and severely injured a child and a man attempting to save him in Maharashtra ([Annexure 11](#)); a pack of reportedly abandoned pit bulls attacked and killed 2 kids in Punjab ([Annexure 12](#)); and a pit bull viciously attacked a pregnant community dog in Maharashtra ([Annexure 13](#)). These tragic events underscore the urgent need to protect these vulnerable dog breeds, often exploited by criminal elements for illegal dogfighting, and to safeguard public safety.

Previously, PETA India has also filed a first information report against illegal dogfighting in Ghaziabad ([Annexure 14](#)). And in 2022, in a famous case, an 82-year-old was mauled to death by her son's pit bull in Lucknow ([Annexure 15](#)). An

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ever-growing number of horrific and often fatal incidents involving attacks on humans by these breeds have been reported in the media (**Annexure 16**).

We again ask that a statewide prohibition be implemented banning foreign dog breeds specifically bred for fighting and aggression. **Breeds including pit bull terriers, Rottweilers, Pakistani bully kuttas, Dogo Argentinos (Argentine mastiffs), Presa Canarios, Fila Brasileiros (Brazilian mastiffs), bull terriers, and XL bullies** have deliberately been bred to be abused in fights and used for attack, and many are sold to unsuspecting buyers who are themselves attacked or cannot control the animals.

Inciting dogs to fight is illegal under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960. Yet organised dogfights are becoming prevalent in parts of India. Pit bulls are chosen because they're among the bully breeds that were originally bred for bullbaiting and bearbaiting and are now used for dogfighting. Pit bull-type dogs are among the most abused breeds on the planet because they are typically kept only for dogfighting or as guard or attack dogs, forced to endure a miserable life at the end of a chain. They are typically trained with violence and neglected, making them fearful and defensive. Many pit bull-type dogs endure painful physical mutilations, such as ear cropping – an illegal process that involves cutting part of a dog's ears to try to prevent another dog from grabbing them during a fight. Please find footage that Fauna Police shared with PETA India of illegal dogfights held in India [here](https://shorturl.at/NSP1X) (<https://shorturl.at/NSP1X>). We are also including screenshots of dogfights and their effect on dogs (**Annexure 17**).

A policy in Gujarat aimed at prohibiting the keeping or breeding of pit bulls and other foreign dogs bred for illegal fighting and attacks would protect both the dogs and residents from harm. We recommend that this goal be achieved through the following steps.

- **Prohibition on dog breeds primarily used for fighting:** This goal could be achieved through mandatory sterilisation and registration of dogs already in people's homes and a prohibition on further breeding, selling, and keeping of such breeds.
- **Enforcement of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Pet Shop) Rules, 2018, and the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Dog Breeding and Marketing) Rules, 2017:** A crackdown on unregistered pet shops and breeders is necessary to stop illegal sales and to enforce any directions to control the breeding and sale of pit bull-type dog breeds. Pet shops and breeders must be duly registered under the law.
- **Promotion of adoption of community dogs:** An estimated 60 million dogs and cats roam Indian roads, and 8.8 million are in animal shelters, waiting for good homes. Encouraging the adoption of dogs and cats from animal shelters over the purchase of foreign breeds must be a vital part of any new policy. It would help animal shelters focus on reducing the number of community animals who suffer on roads and help prevent dog-human

conflicts and should be encouraged alongside the sterilisation of all companion and community dogs and cats.

Given the urgency of the situation, we request your immediate action by enacting a policy prohibiting keeping, breeding, or selling foreign dog breeds bred for aggression and fighting in Gujarat. This would offer the best possible protection for dogs and humans.

Thank you for your consideration. I can be reached at ShauryaA@petaindia.org or on +91 7303787382. We stand ready to offer more information, research, or any other aid necessary to advance this noble cause.

Respectfully,



Shaurya Agrawal
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Copy To:

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