

OWNER'S PLEA

ON DOG RULING

Law 'should be down to behaviour, not breeds'



Nicky Cutler with Laci and Lola

A DUDLEY dad who had both of his pitbull-types seized by police is backing calls to change the Dangerous Dogs Act so animals are judged on their behaviour, rather than breed.

Despite Nicky Cutler's dog Laci never showing any signs of aggression, she was seized last summer after he was reported for having a banned breed.

The 27-year-old said he was "really upset" when she was taken from the family home in Russells Hall, adding: "I didn't think we'd get her back."

His wife Rachel said: "She was away from us for six to eight weeks and during that time we weren't allowed to see her or know where she was.

"It was heartbreaking, we were

By Kelly Harris

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all upset, especially the kids. For the first few weeks we didn't think we'd get her back as no-one was getting in touch.

"We had to go to court and luckily the judge said we could have her back if we had her micro-chipped, spayed and got third-party insurance and renewed it every year."

Additional conditions mean that Laci must be kept on a lead and muzzled when in a public place, which the mum-of-five said she thinks is "unfair".

When the couple got their sec-

ond pit bull-type, Lola, they handed her over to the police themselves after getting her chipped, spayed and insured.

Mr Cutler said he felt confident they would get her back as she had the same temperament as Laci and he was right - after six-weeks, the court ruled the dog could be returned.

The couple believe that Breed Specific Legislation (BSL) - part of the Dangerous Dog Act that makes it illegal to own a pit bull terrier, Japanese tosa, dogo Argentino or fila Brasileiro in the UK, should be changed.

Mrs Cutler said: "I think pit bulls are the best dogs going, they listen to the owner - even if someone comes to the house ours

Turn to page 2

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