

Sensible solutions for dangerous dogs.

3. Research & facts about dog bite victims.

While genetics are an important factor (at least for some breeds and for some breeders), the impact of the environment and learned behaviour (socializing and specific training) are also most critical to the behaviour of a dog.

The tendency of a dog to bite is dependent on the following interacting factors.

Heredity (genes, breed).

Early experience.

Socialization and training.

Health (physical and psychological) and victim behaviour (Beaver 2001, Seksel 2002, Snyder 2005).

Other factors include.

The sex and age of the animal.

Along with preset range of other social and environmental factors.

Dog bite incidents generally occur either in domestic settings where the animal is known to the victim, or by roaming dogs at large unknown to the victim.

While dogs at large are responsible for a minority of dog bites they also attract disproportionate media and political interest.

They are the public face of the dog bite problem, and most legislation is designed to control this part of the problem.

However, to know is that most bites occurred in the dog's own home environment (yard) and involve victims bitten by their own dog (Kizer 1979 cited in Overall and Love 2001).

In Australia, 73% to 81% of attacks occur in the domestic environment. (Ashby K 1996 quoted in Ozanne-Smith et al 2001, Thompson 1.

Looking at more factors.

III Male dogs are 6.2 times more likely to bite than females (Gershman 1994, Shuler 2008).

III Entire intact dogs are 2.6 times more likely to bite than those that are spayed or neutered (de-sexed) (Gershman 1994 although >>>see Guy 2001, Messam 2008).

III Chained dogs are 2.8 times more likely to bite than unchained dogs (Gershman 1994, although see Messam 2001, Yeon 2001).

III Adult dogs with “dominance aggression” are more likely to be 18-24 months old (Overall and Love 2001).

III Dogs bred at home are less likely to bite, compared to those obtained from breeders and pet shops (Messam 2008).

III Dogs are more likely to bite the older they are when they are obtained (Messam 2008).

III Biting dogs are more likely to live in areas of lower median income (Shuler 2008).

III Some dogs are more dangerous when acting as a pack (Kneafsey et al 1995, Avis 1999 cited in Patronek and Slavinski 2009; Raghavan 2008).

Research has also shown that larger in size owned dogs delivered more bites on the head and neck that needed medical treatment, and, in short, were more dangerous than stray dogs (Harris et al 1974 cited in Overall and Love 2001).

Victims.

Most scientific studies report that children are more likely to be bitten by dogs than adults.

In their 2001 paper, “A community approach to dog bite prevention – AVMA Task Force on Canine Aggression and Human–Canine interactions”.

Baltimore.

Owned dogs at large in public places (stray, escaped or being walked off-leash) were responsible for 13-25% of reported bites in Baltimore (Berzon cited in Overall and Love 2001).

Belgium; 35% of reported bites to children in Belgium.

Netherlands; 38% of reported bites in the Netherlands (Cornelissen 2010),

Toronto; 42% of reported bites in Toronto (Bandow 1996).

Only 10% (cited in Beaver et al 2001) to 27% (Messam et al 2008) of biting dogs are not known to the victim.

Not surprisingly, Council data report that 62% of dog attacks occurred in public places (Anon 2012) ... because few people will report bites by their own dog.

Beaver et al noted that.

“Children” are the most common victims of serious dog bites.

70% of fatal dog attacks (Sacks et al 2000) and more than half of bite wounds requiring medical attention involve children. (Beaver et al 2001).

That's it – Gawie Manjaro – MK.

