

Sensible solutions for dangerous dogs.

5. Worldwide research into dog bites.

USA.

“Overall and Love”.

1. Most dog bites affect children under 15 years of age III 60-75% of those bitten are under 20 years of age, and most are 5–9-year-old.
2. After 1 year of age, the incidence increases through to ages 5-9 III Children are bitten 2-3 times more frequently than would be expected based on their population proportion.
3. 45% of 3,200 children 4-18 years of age reported being bitten during their lifetime.
4. Children are at least three times more likely to experience a bite needing medical attention than adults.

An extensive telephone-based survey of 1184 families.

Belgium.

A 2.2% annual prevalence of dog bites to children

Indiana USA mirrored these findings.

Far less than 50% of bites were reported to medical or legal authorities (Kahn et al 2004).

The number of dog bite cases presented to hospital emergency departments was about one quarter of those caused by road accidents and one-third by burns received at home.

65% of patients were bitten at home, 35% in public.

In 86% of the home bites and 31% of the public bites, the bite was determined to result mainly from the child's or adult's behaviour (not the dog's initiative).

Bites at home occurred when there was no adult supervision (Kahn et al 2003).

Figures obtained from medical reporting sources reflect the likelihood of a bite being reported.

Children are generally shorter, weaker, with poorer judgment than adults.

Children also actively interact with dogs differently to adults, so are more likely to be bitten on the face and head causing complex, serious, and disfiguring injuries.

Indiana & USA, reported on children.

1. 475 bites per 100,000 under 5 years of age.
2. 613 bites per 100,000 between 5 and 9 years of age.
3. 462 bites per 100,000 between 10 and 14 years of age.
4. 81 bites per 100,000 adults older than 60 years of age.

(Sinclair and Zhou 1995 cited in Patronek and Slavinski 2009).

Children typically require significantly shorter periods of hospitalization than do adults (Ozanne-Smith et al 2001).

Beaver (2001) concisely summarizes the findings >>>

“Children’s natural behaviours include running, yelling, grabbing, hitting, quick and darting movements, maintaining eye contact -all put the children at risk of dog bite injuries.

Proximity of a child’s face to the dog increases the risk that facial injuries will occur.”

Surveys using different data sources report different child & adult bite incidences.

Netherlands – of 40355 households it was found that 1420 people had been bitten.

From 1078 of these - 79% of the bites were adults.

21% to children.

No difference existed between the incidence for people up to 18 and those over 18 years of age.

About one-third of victims were bitten by their own dog.

The majority of incidents occurred in non-public places.

Most of the incidents resulted in no (32%) or minor (48%) injuries, while 20% resulted in serious punctures.

In 62% of cases, the bite was not medically treated (Cornelissen and Hopster 2010).

Breed-specific legislation.

Breed-specific legislation generally refers to laws **that target specific breeds of dogs.**

This legislative approach has been used by many jurisdictions to address the issue of aggressive and dangerous dogs in the community.

The legislation has generally taken the form of either banning or placing stringent restrictions on the ownership of certain breeds of dog.

Australia does not believe that breed-based approaches reduce public risk and is opposed to breed-based dog control measures because the evidence shows that they do not and cannot work.

NVA - National veterinary associations of Britain, United States Canada and major animal welfare organizations internationally also hold this view.

Several factors cause failure of BSL.

1. “Breed” on its own is not an effective indicator or predictor of aggression in dogs.
2. Impossible to precisely determine a breed of dogs targeted by BSL by appearance or by DNA analysis.
3. The number of animals that would need to be removed from a community to have a meaningful impact on hospital admissions is so high that the removal of any one breed would have negligible impact.
4. BSL ignores the human element whereby dog owners who desire this kind of dog (and specifically training them to be human aggressive) will simply substitute another breed of dog of similar size, strength, and perception of aggressive tendencies.

Jurisdictions are recognizing this through experience and opting to repeal breed-specific legislation where it is in place.

That’s it – Gawie Manjaro – MK.

