

Sensible solutions for dangerous dogs.

6. Medical based & dog survey's dog bites, temperament, and aggression testing.

All dogs, regardless of breed, are capable of biting and causing serious injury, especially to children and the elderly.

Canada.

A survey of 3226 dogs attending, the owners reported that 15.6% of the dogs had bitten a person at some time (Guy et al 2001).

Medical surveys have identified that "certain and larger breeds – bigger sized dogs" are more likely to cause more serious injury requiring medical attention than others are also and more likely to be reported.

So, these breeds tend to be over-represented in reports, but this have changed over time depending on a breed's public popularity demand.

Especially true when certain breeds (like the APBT Bulldog), are referred to, profiled, and characterized in the media (PodBerscek 1994, Twining et al 2000).

Thompson (1997) -five breeds (presenting only 31% of the population) were responsible for 73% of South Australian attacks where the victim was hospitalized.

In 2004 these breeds topped the list.

Breed 2000-2002 2002-2004.

% of all attacks.

% in survey population.

% of all attacks.

% in survey population.

Rottweiler 20.3% 5.7% 12.4% 5.7%.

Jack Russell Terrier 10.9% 4.7% 6.5% 4.7%.

German Shepherd 15.6% 8.1% 8.2% 8.1%.

Bull Terrier (all types) 8.6% 7.9% 9.8% 7.9%.

Note >>> "types" – not specially APBT Bulldog).

Kelpie 5.5% 6.0% 8.2% 6.0%.

Doberman 1.5% 1.2% 1.0% 1.2%.

Heeler (all types) 3.9% 6.3% 6.5% 6.3%.

Breeds recorded responsible for dog bite hospital admissions.

Australia. (Thompson 2004) Table 1)

NSW, similar trends are seen in as in Table 2.

New South Wales by year (Anon, NSW Government 2005, 2010, 2011)
Table 2

Restricted breeds are the Japanese Tosa, Fila Brasileiro, Dogo Argentino, Perro de Presa Canario, and APBT Bulldog.

The first four breeds have been banned from import for some time and are present in insignificant numbers in Australia, if at all.

USA, APBT Bulldogs were responsible for most dog bite fatalities in the 1980s but were eclipsed by Rottweilers in the 1990s (Sacks et al 2000).

2004-5 2005-6 2006-7 2007-8 2008-9 2009-10 2010-11

Highest number of attacks - German Shepherd - American Staffordshire terrier - Cattle Dog - Rottweiler - Bull Terrier – APBT Bulldog - Bull Mastiff - Border Collie - Husky - Jack Russell and out crosses.

The APBT Bulldog has been the target of recent state legislation, despite data that the breed is responsible for no more attacks than a number of other breeds.

Temperament is the one factor that differs between breeds of dogs (Hart and Miller 1986, Hart and Hart 1986, Bradshaw et al 1996, Coppinger and Coppinger 1996, Takeuchi and Mori 2006).

Behavioral traits are more associated with current use than with a breed's historical purpose (Svartberg 2006).

Social and non-social fearfulness (resulting in aggression) can be altered in a few generations under intense selection breeding. (Muphree 1969 referenced in Svartberg 2006).

Studies undertaken in the past decade clearly question the proposition that certain breeds are inherently more aggressive than others.

Temperament & aggression testing.

Germany 2008 Schalke et al (2000a, 2000b) 415 dogs examined in compulsory, standardized behavior tests delivered by qualified and experienced veterinary behaviorists.

95% showed no indication of disturbed aggressive communication or aggressive behavior in inappropriate situations.

No significant differences found between American Staffordshire Bull Terriers, APBT Bulldogs, Doberman Pinschers and Rottweilers as in a study with 70 Golden Retrievers.

Canine C-BARQ aggression & temperament breeds variation questionnaire results.

USA, 2008 9,813 dogs were assessed by their owners.

USA 2006 - 25000 dogs were tested by the Georgia-based American Temperament Test Society.

84% of APBT Bulldogs passed, a higher percentage than Beagles, Airedales, Bearded Collies and most Dachshunds (Gladwell 2006).

USA.

An adoption shelter survey of 40 APBT Bulldogs and 42 other similar-sized dogs, both before and after adoption, three APBT Bulldogs and two dogs of other breeds were euthanized prior to adoption because of aggression toward people.

Of the 77 adopters, one APBT Bulldog and 10 dogs of other breeds were returned because of alleged aggression.

Reported care was similar except that APBT Bulldogs were more likely to sleep on their owner's or new bed and cuddle their owner (MacNeill-Alcock et al 2011).

Scores suggest it is inappropriate to make predictions about a given dog's propensity for aggressive behavior solely on its breed.

"APBT Bulldogs scored fourth for "stranger aggression" after (Dachshunds, Chihuahuas, and Australian Cattle Dogs).

Third for owner-directed aggression (after Beagles and Dachshunds).

Second for dog aggression (after Akitas).

7% of APBT Bulldog owners reported their dog had bitten or attempted to bite a strange person, while 22% reported bites directed at other dogs.

Duffy et al (2008) concluded that "In general, the highest rates of human directed aggression were found in smaller breeds whose aggression is presumably easier to tolerate".

That's it – Gawie Manjaro – MK.

