

# ***Which dogs bite?***

*A collection of worldwide statistics and facts*



*"Goodbye;  
me and Sandy will be together for ever.  
Me and Sandy will never be parted again"*

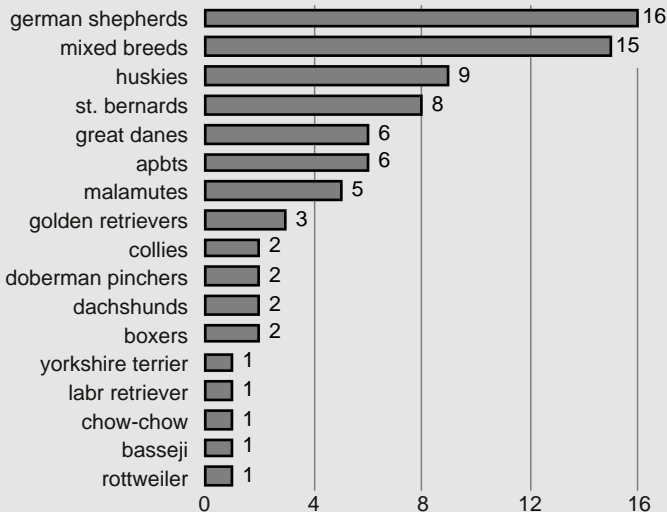
*- Mark Amston*

Mark Amston, 20, from Caernarfon, hanged himself the day after his APBT was put to sleep. The inquest heard that he failed to get insurance for his dog as the British dangerous dog act (DDA) required and he hanged himself from an attic door at his home the day after his dog was destroyed.

*From Dekalb County Georgia*  
**An Ordinance for Dogs dated 1987**  
*done by a study group appointed by the county*

This five year study clearly makes note of the fact that statistics could not be used to document the dangerousness of any one breed, or the comparison of one breed to another.

**In 1982, a published report covering the 5-year period from May 1975 to April 1980, found the following breeds responsible for a total of 73 fatal attacks on humans:**



That data show that it is impossible to know how many dogs of a given breed are in the general canine population at any given time. \* As the popularity of a breed increases so are the chances for a similar increase in the number of dog bites for that breed. Therefore, without specific data on the numbers of pure bred and mixed dogs in a community, it is impossible to know how "dangerous" any specific breed of dogs might be, therefore, most analysts of these problems agree that when legislation is focused on the dog it usually fails because most communities find themselves with tough laws that are vague, unenforceable, confusing and costly to administer.

More significantly, by focusing attention on tough definitions and dogs which are defined as "vicious", the major point, in fact, is missed.....that most biting dogs are usually not under supervision or are running loose.

\*1984 University of Cincinnati LAW REVIEW, Vol. 53, Pg. 1077

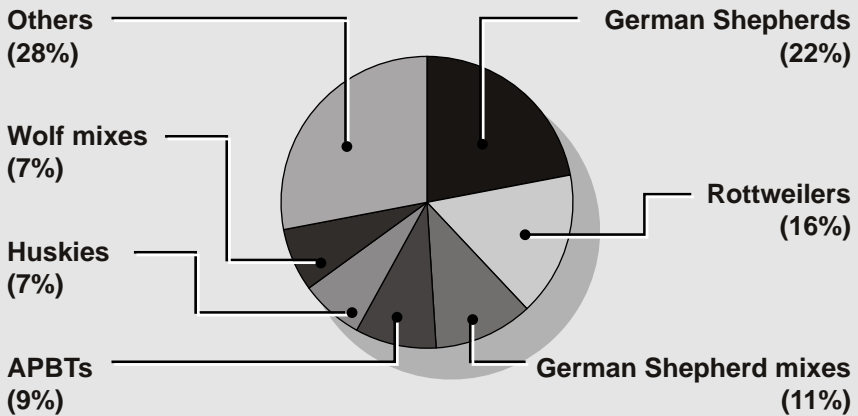
# Article about children being bitten by dogs

November 95 iissue of *Pediatrics*, a journal put out by the American Academy of Pediatrics

"Both dog owners and adults who care for children must be educated to the range of situations and behaviors that elicit aggressive responses from dogs. Dog behavior appears complex and erratic to the untrained observer... Dominance aggression usually occurs in relation to persons well known to the dog and most often in familiar surroundings. Aggression near the dog's home may also contain an important component of territoriality. In contrast, strays are usually wary of humans and rarely aggressive. However, many people continue to believe the contrary and perceive strays are more likely to be aggressive. Perhaps because of this misconception, the diligence of supervising adults may wane in the presence of a familiar dog, leaving their child at risk for injury. Children may also have less fear of dogs that they have seen on previous occasions and may place themselves at greater risk."

**Most dogs were:**

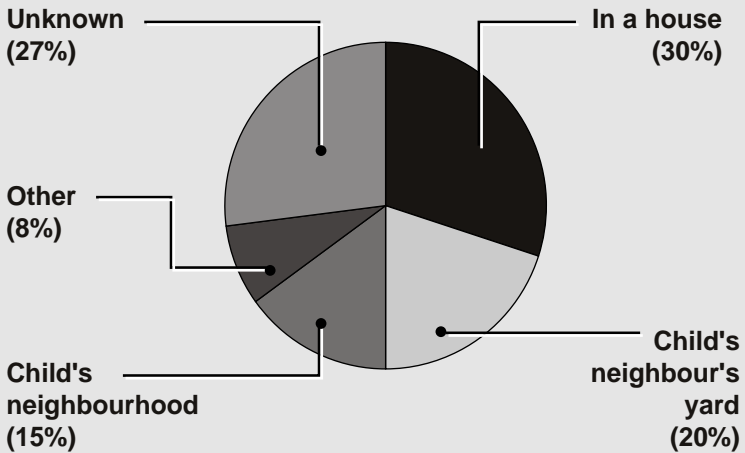
- medium-sized or large breeds
- were familiar to the child



# Article about children being bitten by dogs

November 95 iissue of *Pediatrics*, a journal put out by the American Academy of Pediatrics  
(continuing)

**Dogs belonged to neighbors in 49% of the cases.**  
**Dogs were a household member in 30% of the cases.**  
**Strays accounted for 7% of the bites.**  
**Guard dogs accounted for 5% of the bites**



**There were (U.S.A.) an estimated 4.5 million dog bites in 1994.**

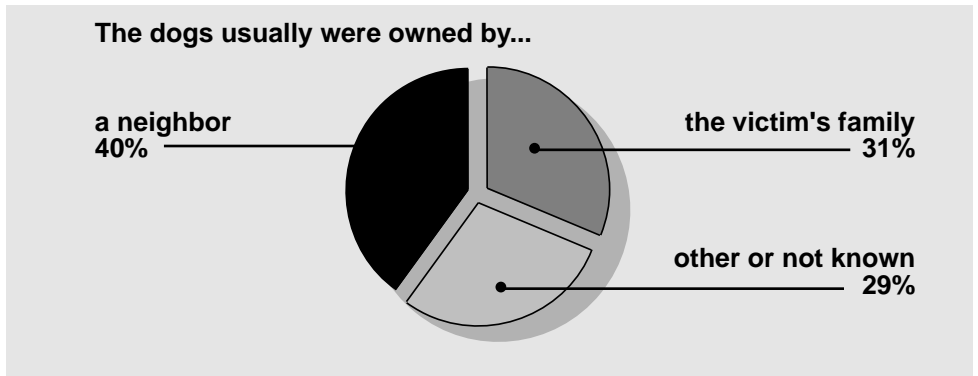
**Of those, 800,000 required medical attention (17%) and 15 were fatal.**

# Dog bites. A neglected problem in accident prevention.

*Am J Dis Child 1982 Mar;136(3):202-4*

**ABSTRACT:** Dog bites are a common but neglected pediatric problem. To clarify the epidemiology of dog bites and to learn if parents would welcome counseling aimed at preventing bites, 455 families (960 children) in a Denver pediatric practice were surveyed.

One hundred ninety-four children (20.2%) had been bitten at least once, with the majority of bites occurring before the child was aged 5 years. Forty-three percent of the bites prompted a visit to a physician and 16.5% received sutures. German shepherds were responsible for 17% of the incidents, more than expected relative to their popularity as pets.



The dogs usually were owned by a neighbor (40.2%) or the victim's family (31%). Approximately half of the bites were believed to be unprovoked. Seventy-seven percent of the parents believed that dog bite prevention warranted discussion with their physician.

Dog bites are an important pediatric problem, and parents should be counseled accordingly during well-child visits.

*Palm Beach County*  
**Comparison of most severe bites by dog breed**  
 1986 - 1993

**1993**

1	Dalmatian	24,3%
2	Rottweiler	21,4
3	Doberman	16,9
4	Chow Chow	16,2
5	Apbt	16,1
6	Gldn. Retriever	15,9
7	Lab. Retriever	15,8
8	Ccker. Spaniel	14,5
9	Germ. Shepherd	12,0
10	Hound	7,1

Total bites: 2,132

**1992**

1	Ccker. Spaniel	23,6%
2	Apbt	20,4
3	Chow Chow	18,7
4	Lab. Retriever	16,4
	Rottweiler	16,4
6	Germ. Shepherd	13,8
7	Lhasa Apso	13,7
8	Doberman	13,5
9	Goldn. Retriever	12,5
10	Terrier	6,2

Total bites: 2,234

**1991**

1	Rottweiler	24 %
2	Ccker. Spaniel	18
3	Gldn. Retriever	18
4	Chow Chow	16
5	Lab. Retriever	15
6	Hound	14
7	Germ. Shepherd	12
8	Terrier	11
9	Apbt	10
10	Doberman	4

Total bites: 2,575

**1990**

1	Doberman	21 %
2	Rottweiler	20
3	Chow Chow	19
4	Germ. Shepherd	16
5	Apbt	16
6	Terrier	15
7	Lab. Retriever	14
8	Ccker. Spaniel	13
9	Goldn. Retriever	9
10	Hound	8

Total bites: 2,497

**1989**

1	Gldn. Retriever	24 %
2	Chow Chow	18
3	Doberman	18
4	Lab. Retriever	16
5	Apbt	15
6	Germ. Shepherd	14
7	Rottweiler	12
8	Hound	11
9	Cocker Spaniel	10
10	Terrier	4

Total bites: 2,556

**1988**

1	Chow Chow	21 %
2	Rottweiler	20
3	Ccker. Spaniel	19
4	Doberman	16
5	Lab. Retriever	16
6	Goldn. Retriever	15
7	German Shepherd	14
8	Hound	13
9	Apbt	9
10	Poodle	8

Total bites: 2,383



## *Palm Beach County*

# Comparison of most severe bites by dog breed

1993

Each bite is graded from a 1 to 5 scale as follows:

- 1 - Very superficial wound requiring little or not first aid
- 2 - Wound required first aid
- 3 - Wound required professional medical aid - doctor, paramedics, etc.
- 4 - Wound required victim to be admitted to a hospital
- 5 - Wound resulted in death of victim

breed	bite severity				total bites	% of all bites
	1	2	3	4		
<b>Domestic short haired cat</b>	59,4	37,5	1,0	2,0	296	6,59
<b>German Shepherd</b>	37,5	50,4	12,0	0,0	224	4,99
<b>Chow Chow</b>	28,9	54,8	15,6	0,6	166	3,69
<b>Labrador Retriever</b>	37,8	46,3	15,8	0,0	164	3,65
<b>Pit Bull</b>	27,7	56,0	15,5	0,6	148	3,29
<b>Rottweiler</b>	19,4	59,0	20,1	1,3	144	3,20
<b>Hound</b>	31,4	61,4	7,1	0,0	70	1,55
<b>Mixed breed</b>	33,3	52,6	14,0	0,0	57	1,27
<b>Cocker Spaniel</b>	32,7	52,7	14,5	0,0	55	1,22
<b>Doberman Pincher</b>	24,5	58,4	16,9	0,0	53	1,18
<b>Golden Retriever</b>	45,4	38,6	15,9	0,0	44	0,98
<b>Domestic medium haired cat</b>	74,4	25,5	0,0	0,0	43	0,95
<b>Dalmatian</b>	27,0	48,6	18,9	5,4	37	0,82
<b>Terrier mixed</b>	51,6	41,9	6,4	0,0	31	0,69
<b>Equine horse</b>	29,6	55,5	14,8	0,0	27	0,60
<b>Siamese</b>	37,5	62,5	0,0	0,0	24	0,53
<b>Akita</b>	13,6	45,4	40,9	0,0	22	0,49
<b>Domestic long haired cat</b>	68,1	27,2	4,5	0,0	22	0,49
<b>Poodle</b>	40,0	55,0	5,0	0,0	20	0,44
<b>Labrador retriever (yellow)</b>	50,0	45,0	5,0	0,0	20	0,44
<b>Boxer</b>	35,0	65,0	0,0	0,0	20	0,44
<b>Lhasa Apso</b>	33,3	55,5	11,1	0,0	18	0,40
<b>Dachshund</b>	29,4	47,0	23,5	0,0	17	0,37
<b>Shih Tzu</b>	11,7	58,8	29,4	0,0	17	0,37
<b>Beagle</b>	31,2	50,0	18,7	0,0	16	0,35

DOG POPULATION: Isn't known for sure, but estimates about the population of dogs are between 175,000 and 225,000 out of a population of nearly 1 million.

# Article about children being bitten by dogs

November 95 issue of *Pediatrics*, a journal put out by the American Academy of Pediatrics  
(continuing)

"Unfortunately, we've learned that most dog bites come from family dogs. In fact, small poodles are the most frequent biters of Con Edison workers, with chihuahuas a close second," said John Grant, who oversees all safety-related matters in Con Edison's Manhattan Customer Operations. "Last year The ASPCA educated about 225 of our meter readers to read canine body language and avoid encounters with angry or frightened dogs when they enter private premises."

<b>Statistic</b>	<b>Source</b>
Number of letter carriers bitten in the past year: 2,851	U.S. Postal Service
Number of dogs owned in U.S.: 52 million	Veterinary Medical Assn.
Estimated amount paid out by U.S. insurance companies in 1994 for dog-bite claims \$1 Billion	Information Institute, Inc.
Average amount of a dog-bite insurance claim: \$12,000	State Farm Insurance
Chances that a bodily injury homeowner's insurance claim will involve a dog bite: 1 in 3	State Farm Insurance
Chances an American will be bitten by a dog this year: 1 in 50	Centers for Disease Control (CDC)
Likelihood that the biting dog will be male: 8 in 10	Humane Society of the U.S.(HSUS)
Likelihood that the biting dog will not have been neutered: 6 in 10	HSUS
Chances that the bite will require medical attention: 1 in 5	CDC
Chances that the bite victim requiring medical attention will be a child: 3.2 to 1	CDC
Average number of fatal dog bites every year: 9-12	HSUS/CDC
Ratio of households keeping a dog due to fear of crime 1981 compared to 1993: 2 to 1	HSUS
Chances that the victim of a fatal dog attack will be a burglar 1 in 177	HSUS
Chances that the victim of a fatal attack will be a child: 7 in 10	CDC/HSUS
Likelihood that a dog which has bitten will be destroyed: High	HSUS

# **Severe attacks by dogs: characteristics of the dogs, the victims, and the attack settings.**

*Public Health Rep 1985 Jan-Feb;100(1):55-61*

**ABSTRACT:** Sixteen incidents involving dog bites fitting the description "severe" were identified among 5,711 dog bite incidents reported to health departments in five South Carolina counties (population 750,912 in 1980) between July 1, 1979, and June 30, 1982.

A "severe" attack was defined as one in which the dog "repeatedly bit or vigorously shook its victim, and the victim or the person intervening had extreme difficulty terminating the attack."

Information from health department records was clarified by interviews with animal control officers, health and police officials, and persons with firsthand knowledge of the events. Investigation disclosed that the dogs involved in the 16 severe attacks were reproductively intact males.

**In 88 % of the cases, the attacks took place in the owner's yard or home, or in the adjoining yard.**

**In 62 % of the cases, members of the victims' families witnessed the attacks.**

The median age of the dogs was 3 years. A majority of the attacks were by American Staffordshire terriers, St. Bernards, and cocker spaniels. Ten of the dogs had been aggressive toward people or other dogs before the incident that was investigated. Ten of the 16 victims of severe attacks were 10 years of age or younger; the median age of all 16 victims was 8 years. Twelve of the victims either were members of the family that owned the attacking dog or had had contact with the dog before the attack.

Eleven of the victims were bitten on the head, neck, or shoulders. In 88 percent of the cases, the attacks took place in the owner's yard or home, or in the adjoining yard. In 10 of the 16 incidents, members of the victims' families witnessed the attacks.

*(ABSTRACT TRUNCATED AT 250 WORDS)*

*Beck AM, Jones BA*

## **Epidemiologic surveys of dog and cat bites in the Lyon area, France.**

*Eur J Epidemiol 1992 Jul;8(4):619-24*

**Bite incidence rates ranged from 10/100,000 persons/year to 37.5/100,000 persons/year for reported bites**

**In 74% of the cases, victims belonged to the pet owner's family**

**ABSTRACT:** The urban pet population has increased considerably in France during the last twenty years. Two main questions need to be answered regarding rabies and other bite transmitted zoonoses: What is the actual incidence rate of dog and cat bites in an urban area; and how sensitive is the animal bite reporting system? To answer these questions, four surveys were conducted in the Lyon area, France, in 1989:

1) an analysis of the consultation reports to the Pasteur Institute and of the bite reports sent by veterinarians to the local veterinary services for 1987 and 1988;

2) a survey of 10 veterinary clinics located in the Lyon area and an analysis of their bite reports for the period May 1987-April 1989;

3) a questionnaire survey to 175 clients of these veterinary clinics;

4) a street survey of a random sample of the Lyon adult population (310 questionnaires). Bite incidence rates ranged from 10/100,000 persons/year for rabies post-exposure treatments to 37.5/100,000 persons/year for reported bites. However, less than half of the bite reports from the ten veterinary clinics were submitted to the veterinary services. The surveys conducted among pet owners and the general population indicated that, overall, bites were common events (3.4%) and occurred more often in pet owners (8.6%). In 74% of the cases, victims belonged to the pet owner's family and one fourth of the accidents occurred when playing with the pet. However, 12% of the accidents resulted from apparently unprovoked aggressions.(ABSTRACT TRUNCATED AT 250 WORDS)

*Spence G*

## [Child aggression by dogs: a preliminary study of risk factors]

*Ann Pediatr (Paris) 1990 Mar;37(3):162-6*

**ABSTRACT:** Dog bites in children, although a genuine problem, have as yet been little studied in France from the viewpoint of epidemiology. A detailed study of 184 bites leading to management in a rabies control centre provided preliminary data on individual characteristics and behaviors of the dogs and children, as well as on features of the environment (place and time) that seem to be specifically associated with dog attacks on children.

Increased insight into these risk factors should prove useful for the preventive information of children, parents, and dog owners.

*Jarrett P*



*Accident and Emergency Department, St James's University Hospital, Leeds, U.K.*

### ***Which dogs bite?***

*Arch Emerg Med 1991 Mar;8(1):33-5*

#### **Risk group:**

- **children less than 11 years old**
- **bites commonly occur from family pet**

**ABSTRACT:** Young children (less than 11 years old) are a particular risk group for dog bites. Dog bites commonly occur from the family pet. Alsatian or alsatian mixes are the biggest group in the study causing dog bites. Alsations are a popular breed. By comparison Retrievers (Labrador and Golden), also a popular breed, caused few bites.

## **A survey of dog bites in Salisbury.**

*R Soc Health 1991 Dec;111(6):224-5*

**ABSTRACT:** A recent survey of patients attending an Accident and Emergency (A&E) department serving several economically depressed Thanet coastal towns found that around 3 per 1000 of the resident population attended each year for the treatment of dog bite injuries (Thomas and Banks, 1990).

We report a study of dog bite injuries treated in the A&E department serving Salisbury, a small prosperous Cathedral city, and surrounding villages. In comparison with Thanet, age specific incidence rates for dog bites show a similar pattern but only about half the overall incidence.

**3 per 1000 of the resident population attended each year for  
the treatment of dog bite injuries**

Some reasons for these findings are suggested and extrapolations for national treatment figures are made.

*Langley J*

## Dog bites in urban children

[see comments]

**ABSTRACT:** As a result of a perceived increase in pit bull injuries, all children who presented to The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia during 1989 for evaluation of dog bite injuries were prospectively studied.

Epidemiologic information was collected from parents, either at the time of visit or by phone on the following day. A total of 168 children were enrolled; the mean age was 8 years. Males outnumbered females 1.5:1. Most (61%) injuries occurred in or around the home and involved dogs known to the patient (77%). Types of injuries included abrasions (33%), punctures (29%), and lacerations (38%).

Thirteen bites had associated complications; nine developed infection. Twelve (7%) children required admission to the hospital. More than 12 different purebreeds or cross-breeds were identified as perpetrators, including German shepherds (n = 35), pit bulls (n = 33), rottweilers (n = 9), and Dobermans (n = 7). Most (54%) animals were contained (ie, leashed, fenced, in-house) at the time of injury. Fewer (46%) were provoked prior to biting.

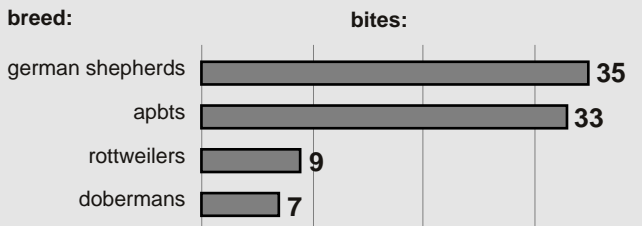
Significantly more pit bull injuries (94% vs 43%, P less than .001) were the consequence of unprovoked attacks and involved freely roaming animals (67% vs 41%, P less than .01). Children aged 5 or younger were more likely to provoke animals prior to injury than were older children (69% vs 36%, P less than .001).

It is recommended that families with young children be the target of pet safety education and that measures be sought that would lead to early identification of a potentially dangerous dog and restrict ownership.

Wright JC

Comment in: Pediatrics 1992 Feb;89(2):356-7

### More than 12 different purebreeds or cross-breeds were identified as perpetrators



## **Severe dog-bite injuries, introducing the concept of pack attack: a literature review and seven case reports.**

*Injury 1995 Jan;26(1):37-41*

**ABSTRACT:** Attacks on humans by dogs acting as a pack, though uncommon, result in severe, sometimes fatal, injuries. We report seven cases of attacks by packs of dogs (five on children and two on elderly women) including one fatal case.

The dangers of dogs acting as a pack are highlighted, particularly when confronted with an unaccompanied child or elderly female.

### **Pack attacks:**

**2 attacks on elderly women**

**5 attacks on children**

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**7 attacks totally**

The pattern of injuries and principles of treatment are discussed.

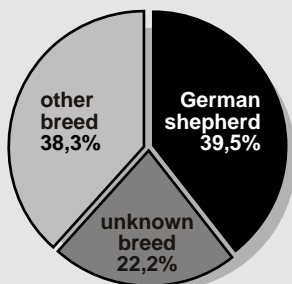
*Greenhalgh C, Cockington RA, Raftos J*



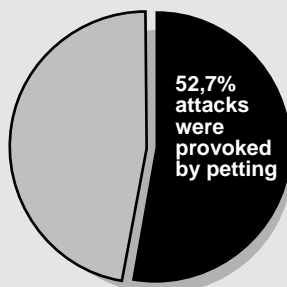
## Dog bites in children. Epidemiologic and clinical study of 144 cases

An Esp Pediatr 1992 Oct;37(4):287-90

### Most frequently involved breeds:



### Provoked attacks:



**ABSTRACT:** We have done a prospective study of 144 cases of dog bites in children between 1 and 13 years of age that were attended at the Emergency Department of the "Miguel Servet" Children's Hospital of Zaragoza over a period of 30 months.

The average child is an 8 year old boy who is bitten at 4 p.m. in the lower limbs by a dog belonging to either the family, a neighbor, or to some friends.

The dog of unknown breed and the German shepherd are those most frequently involved (39.5% and 22.2%, respectively). There is a low incidence of infection (4.8%). The attacks were provoked by petting in 52.7%; therefore, *we recommend not to get close to the animals even if they are known.*

In our area, 83.3% of the children are correctly vaccinated. Finally, we compare our results with other studies and we suggest that it is of great interest to establish measures in order to reduce the incidence of dog bites.

*Shewell PC, Nancarrow JD*

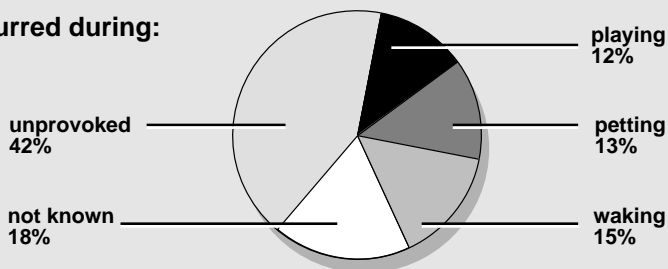
## Dogs that bite

BMJ 1991 Dec 14;303(6816):1512-3 [see comments]

### The commonest dogs producing bites:



### Bites occurred during:



**OBJECTIVE:** To study the circumstances of dog bites and identify risk factors.

**DESIGN:** Postal questionnaire survey and case note review of victims of dog bites referred between 1982 and 1989.

**SETTING:** One referral based regional plastic surgery unit

**PATIENTS:** 146 consecutive patients referred for primary treatment of dog bites, for whom current addresses were available for 133, 107 (81%) of whom returned the questionnaire.

**RESULTS:** The male to female ratio was 74:72; 79 (54%) patients were aged below 15 years. The commonest dogs producing bites were Staffordshire bull terriers (15 cases), Jack Russell terriers (13), medium sized mongrels (10), and Alsatisans (nine). 82 of 96 (85%) dogs were male. 29 of 47 (62%) adults were bitten at home and 45 of 60 (75%) children at a friend's, neighbour's, or relative's house. 91 of 107 (85%) bites occurred in the dog's home.

Bites occurred during playing with 13 (12%), petting 14 (13%), or waking 16 (15%) dogs. 45 (42%) bites were judged as unprovoked. 32 bites were identified as severe and 11 attacks as sustained.

**CONCLUSIONS:** Most victims are bitten by male dogs which they either own or have had frequent contact with, and the bite occurs in the dog's home.

Avner JR, Baker MD

Comment in: BMJ 1992 Jan 11;304(6819):116

Comment in: BMJ 1992 Jan 11;304(6819):116-7

Comment in: BMJ 1992 Jan 11;304(6819):117

## **The incidence of dog bites in New Zealand.**

*N Z Med J 1992 Feb 12;105(927):33-5*

**ABSTRACT:** The subject of dog bites has received considerable media attention in recent times. The incidence of fatal dog bites and those resulting in inpatient treatment was determined for New Zealand for the period 1979-88.

The incidence of dog bite injuries resulting in treatment at Dunedin Hospital's accident and emergency department was also determined. No fatal events were identified.

**1988 incidence rate: 4.8 per 100,000 population**

**1990 incidence rate: 175 per 100,000 population**

There has been a steady increase in the number of incidents requiring inpatient treatment from 54 in 1979 to 158 in 1988 resulting in an incidence rate of 4.8 per 100,000 population in 1988. Overall, males, children, and Maori, had higher rates than female, adults, and nonMaori respectively.

Although injuries to the face were the most common, those to the lower limb tended to result in longer stays in hospital for treatment. A total of 182 dog bites were treated at Dunedin Hospital's accident and emergency department for the year ending 31 March 1990, giving an overall incidence rate of 175 per 100,000 population. It is estimated that for the entire country 5710 similar events are treated per annum.

*Chomel BB, Trotignon J*

## **An epidemiological survey of dog bites presenting to the emergency department of a children's hospital.**

J Paediatr Child Health 1991 Jun;27(3):171-4

**ABSTRACT:** German shepherds are the most popular registered breed of dog in South Australia, but are also the most hazardous to children, biting more often and more severely.

A study of the victims of dog bites presenting to the Emergency Department of the Adelaide Children's Hospital over an 18 month period revealed that, although many breeds were involved, only German shepherds were implicated more frequently than their prevalence in the community.

Attacks occurred most often in a domestic setting involving a friendly dog that was known to the victim. Boys were more often bitten than girls and children aged 1-6 years most commonly involved. Injuries to the face and scalp were frequent and the usual ones to require admission for suture under general anaesthetic. Some scarring was a common sequel and resulting fear of dogs remained with some children.

### **Situations where attacks occurred most often:**

- **friendly dog that was known by the victim**
- **domestic setting**
- **Boys were more often bitten than girls**
- **previous biting history on the part of the dog was uncommon**

Most attacks were reported to be unprovoked and a previous biting history on the part of the dog was uncommon. Parents who are contemplating obtaining a dog for a family pet should be made aware of these facts and advised regarding the biting hazards and possible prevention.

The German shepherd situation especially should be brought to their attention.

*Gracia Romero J, Labarta Aizpun JI, Monreal Galvez MJ, Elias Pollina J*

## **A review of animal bites in Delaware--1989 to 1990.**

*Del Med J 1990 Dec;62(12):1425-33*

**ABSTRACT:** Rabies, a disease associated with aggression in animals, has been endemic in terrestrial wildlife in New Castle County, Delaware, since November 1987.

There have been four documented deaths in humans in Delaware since 1919, although the last case originated in Maryland and was hospitalized in Delaware in 1975.

Because of the potential association of pet animals with wild animals and the subsequent contact with humans, emphasis is placed on preventive medicine (vaccinations) and prevention of animal bites.

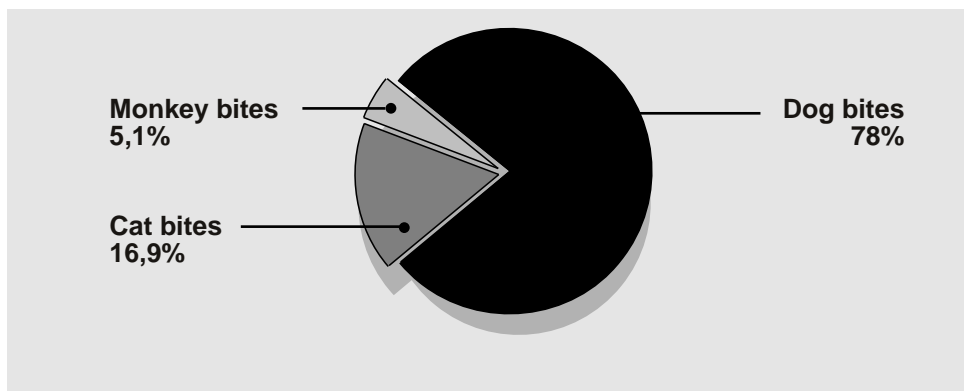
People are bitten more often by dogs than any other domestic animal, causing injury, pain and sometimes death.

*Feder HM Jr, Shanley JD, Barbera JA*

# Review of 59 patients hospitalized with animal bites.

*Pediatr Infect Dis J 1987 Jan;6(1):24-8*

**ABSTRACT:** We reviewed the charts of 59 pediatric and adult patients hospitalized because of animal bites (46 dog bites, 10 cat bites, 3 monkey bites). The bites of 40 of the 59 patients were infected at the time of admission. Gram-stained specimens correctly predicted the infecting bacteria in only 5 of 20 cases. Eighty-three percent of the bacterial isolates were penicillin-susceptible. Before admission 14 patients had received outpatient antibiotic prophylaxis and the infections in 11 of these 14 patients were caused by bacteria susceptible to the prophylactic antibiotic.



Complications were more common if antimicrobial therapy had not been altered according to susceptibility testing results. Of the 59 patients 19 were admitted immediately after being bitten because of severe uninfected bites. Of these 19 patients 18 received prophylactic antibiotics and none developed a serious complication.

*Thomas PR, Buntine JA*

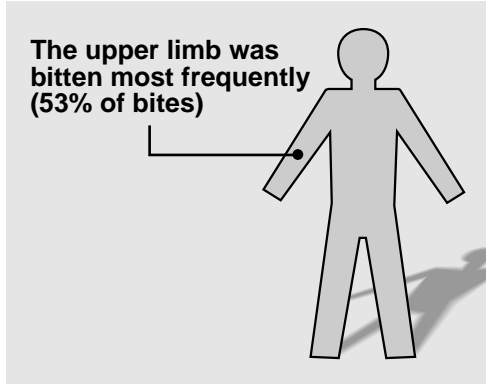
# Man's best friend?: a review of the Austin Hospital's experience with dog bites

Med J Aust 1987 Dec 7-21;147(11-12):536-40

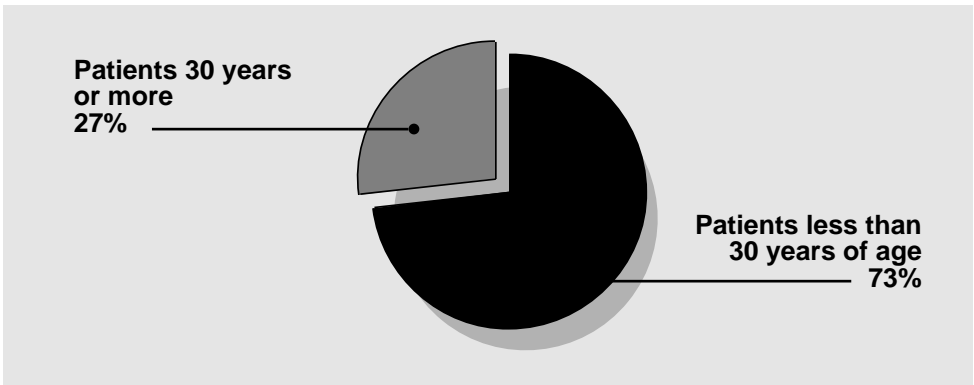
**ABSTRACT:** A retrospective study of outpatient casualty-department attendances and inpatient hospital admissions for dog-bite wounds was undertaken. Alsatians were the offending dog in 47% of 34 recorded cases. The majority of patients were young; 73% of patients were less than 30 years of age. The upper limb was bitten most frequently (53% of bites). Eleven per cent of dog-bite wounds that were treated in casualty became infected. Upper limb and puncture wounds more often became infected.

Prophylactic antibiotic treatment was associated with a 6% infection rate compared with an 18% infection rate in those who were not treated (not statistically significant;  $P$  greater than 0.1). Patients of over the age of 45 years had a higher complication rate. All these findings are consistent with other published series.

The infection rate was minimal when patients were admitted to hospital and their wounds debrided and closed by a consultant plastic surgeon. A plan for the management of dog-bite wounds is outlined.



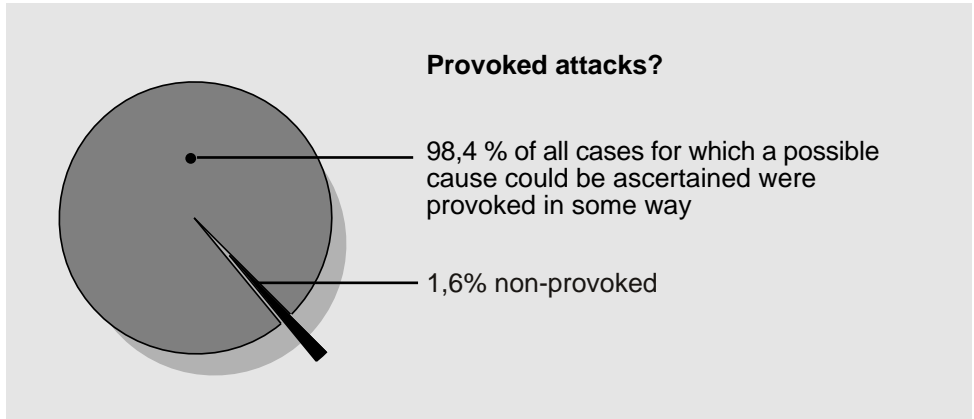
Daniels TJ



# A study of dog bites on the Navajo reservation.

*Public Health Rep 1986 Jan-Feb;101(1):50-9*

**ABSTRACT:** Reservation-wide dog-bite statistics indicate a bite rate on the Navajo Reservation that is comparable to that of a large city. Detailed analysis of 772 bite reports was made to determine the characteristics of biters and their victims.



This included an assessment of the behavioral antecedents leading up to the bite incident; 98.4 percent of all cases for which a possible cause could be ascertained were provoked in some way. Both dog control and public education measures need to be taken to reduce the frequency of dog bites.

*Pollak S, Mortinger H*



## Fatal dog bite injuries

*Beitr Gerichtl Med 1989;47(1):487-95*

**ABSTRACT:** In the absence of her parents, a girl of 4 months was killed by a 2-year old male Rottweiler dog belonging to the same family. The dog's front teeth left marks of individual, circular or scratch-like abrasions as well as slit-like severances of the skin, arranged in curved lines.

The pattern of the skin-lesions largely correspond to the anatomy of the dog's set of teeth. No tissue defects (effects of devour) could be detected. Multiple traumatization of the trunk had led to serial rib fractures and ruptures of several organs.

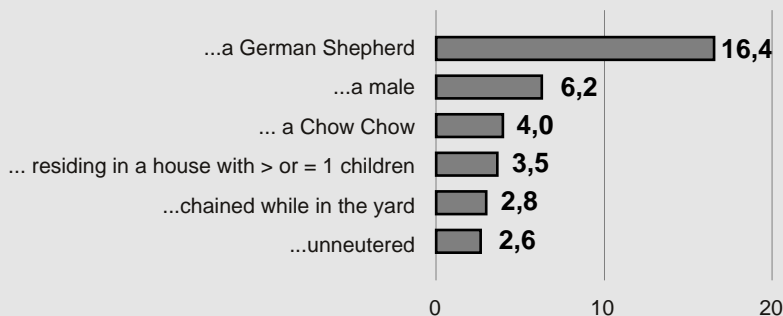
*Sacks JJ, Sattin RW, Bonzo SE*



## Which dogs bite? A case-control study of risk factors.

*Pediatrics* 1994 Jun;93(6 Pt 1):913-7

### Risk factors as adjusted odds ratio, when the dog is...



**OBJECTIVE.** Dog bites cause an estimated 585,000 injuries resulting in the need for medical attention yearly and children are the most frequent victims. This study sought to determine dog-specific factors independently associated with a dog biting a nonhousehold member.

**METHODS.** A matched case-control design comprising 178 pairs of dogs was used. Cases were selected from dogs reported to Denver Animal Control in 1991 for a first-bite episode of a nonhousehold member in which the victim received medical treatment. Controls were neighborhood-matched dogs with no history of biting a nonhousehold member, selected by modified random-digit dialing based on the first five digits of the case dog owner's phone number. Case and control dog owners were interviewed by telephone.

**RESULTS.** Children aged 12 years and younger were the victims in 51% of cases. Compared with controls, biting dogs were more likely to be German Shepherd (adjusted odds ratio (ORa) = 16.4, 95% confidence interval (CI) 3.8 to 71.4) or Chow Chow (ORa = 4.0, 95% CI 1.2 to 13.7) predominant breeds, male (ORa = 6.2, 95% CI 2.5 to 15.1), unneutered (ORa = 2.6, 95% CI 1.1 to 6.3), residing in a house with > or = 1 children (ORa = 3.5, 95% CI 1.6 to 7.5), and chained while in the yard (ORa = 2.8, 95% CI 1.0 to 8.1).

**CONCLUSIONS.** Pediatricians should advise parents that failure to neuter a dog and selection of male dogs and certain breeds such as German Shepherd and Chow Chow may increase the risk of their dog biting a nonhousehold member, who often may be a child. The potential preventability of this frequent public health problem deserves further attention.

*Kneafsey B, Condon KC*

# Unreported dog bites in children.

*Public Health Rep 1985 May-Jun;100(3):315-21*

**ABSTRACT:** In 1981, more than 3,200 Pennsylvania children, ages 4 to 18 years, were surveyed about their dog bite histories and attitudes toward animals. Dog bites were much more common than previously reported: 45 percent of children had been bitten during their lifetimes, and 15.5 percent had been bitten in 1980, more than 36 times the rate reported to health authorities.

**45% of children had been bitten during their lifetimes**

In 1980, the highest bite rate occurred among children 7-12 years old (20 percent). Children were bitten more frequently by the dogs owned by their neighbors, followed by their own dogs, than by strays or by dogs whose owners were not known. Boys were bitten twice as frequently as girls by neighbors' dogs and strays; the bite rates from family dogs were identical in boys and girls.

**"These positive attitudes toward dogs may lead to inadequate precautions against bites..."**

Despite the high bite rates, being bitten was not significantly associated, in most groups of children studied, with a dislike of dogs. These positive attitudes toward dogs may lead to inadequate precautions against bites and to biases in the reporting of bites to health authorities.

*Lauer EA, White WC, Lauer BA*

## Few words about the stats

When reading these statistics, it's good to keep in mind that the reactions of the public and the media are greatly out of proportion to the actual risks.

Regardless to the breed there are much worse threats to the people (for example the domestic cats, see page 9).

Here follows the top 18 accidental killers according to the N.S.C, homicides and disease related deaths are NOT included:

1	Cars	25,700
2	Falls	11,00
3	Pedestrians (killed by vehicles)	8,300
4	Drowning	5,600
5	Fire	4,800
6	Motorcycles	4,400
7	Poisoning	4,000
8	Inhaling food/objects	3,600
9	Guns	1,800
10	Bicycles	1,200
11	Electrocution	888
12	Motor Scooters/Motorbikes	300
13	Farm Tractors	130
14	Lightning	91
15	Hornet, Wasp, Bee stings	48
16	Commercial buses (passengers)	30
17	Venomous snake, Lizard, Spider	8
18	Fireworks	7

*This booklet contains statistics from several different sources. If you have something to add, or some questions about the material - feel free to contact SATHY: [www.sathy.fi](http://www.sathy.fi) email: [info@sathy.fi](mailto:info@sathy.fi)*