

NCRRC | National
Canine
Research
Council

Preserving the Human-Canine Bond

Investigative Reports
of
Dog Bite-Related Fatalities

2010

INTRODUCTION

Dog bite-related fatalities have always been exceedingly rare, yet they attract the kind of publicity that creates an impression they are more prevalent than they actually are. The annual total of such fatalities has risen and fallen with no discernible pattern or trend, even though the U.S. canine and human populations have continued to steadily increase.

During 2010, the U.S. canine population exceeded 78 million. With a human population of more than 308 million, it is safe to estimate that there are billions of interactions between dogs and people every day. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports on its website that pets can decrease blood pressure, cholesterol levels, and feelings of loneliness, and pets can increase opportunities for exercise and socialization. Dogs enrich and improve the lives of tens of millions of people every day. While no one can deny the shock and sorrow that accompanies the loss of life, perhaps it is our bond with dogs, and our amply justified confidence in them as “man’s best friend,” that causes a dog bite-related fatality to attract the disproportionate news coverage it often does.

Accuracy takes time

There were 33 dog bite-related fatalities in 2010.* NCRC contacted officials on each case in order to obtain the most accurate and comprehensive information available. We have re-interviewed sources the media has reached, and located others they have not, among whom may be: police investigators, animal control officers, coroners, veterinarians, health department officials, dog owners, and eye witnesses. We have obtained incident reports; bite reports; human and animal autopsy reports; summaries of judicial proceedings; and crime scene data and photographs. While not all, or even any, of these sources and reports may be available with respect to each individual case, our experience has shown that official reports often do not agree with news accounts and/or contain important information that was either unavailable or not of interest to reporters. Many cases involved extensive investigations by local authorities, and as such, important information relative to the dog(s), owner, and/or victim was not available until the completion of those investigations.

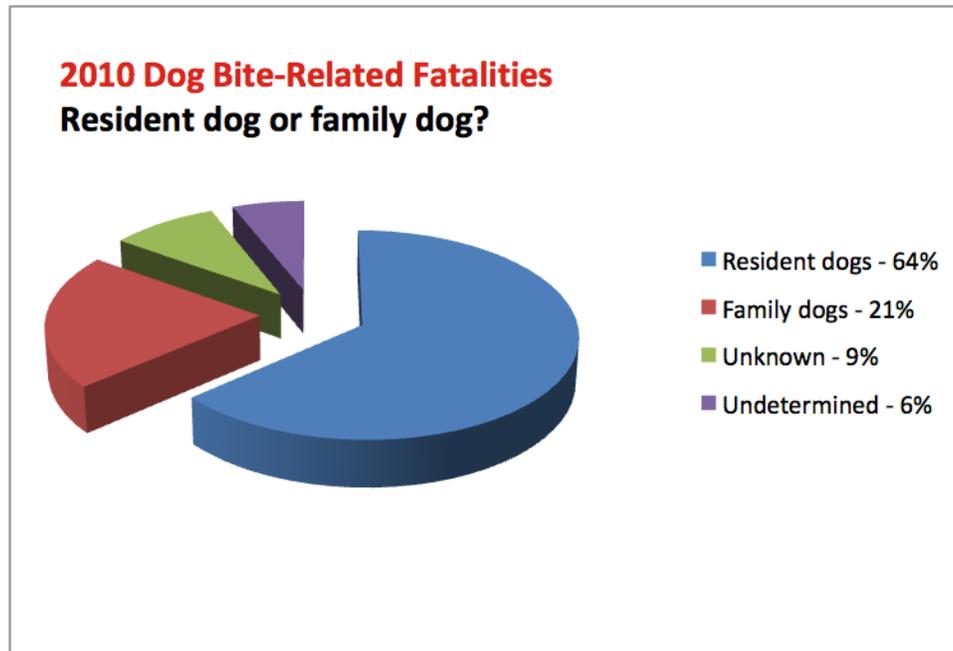
We are issuing our 2010 final report only at the end of 2011 because accuracy takes time. Based on our 20 years of experience investigating dog bite-related fatalities, we will supplement or correct initial media reports with relevant, material information in over 90% of the incidents.

Humane care, custody and control

The majority of these isolated tragedies – 21 out of 33 – involved *resident* dogs, not family pets.

Resident dogs are those isolated by the owner from regular, positive human interactions. Owners often keep resident dogs isolated on chains or in junk-yards, or allow their dogs to roam unattended. Owners of resident dogs often fail to provide basic humane care for their dogs, resulting in animals that suffer from malnutrition or chronic disease or illness.

"Resident" dogs cannot be expected to exhibit the same behaviors and level of sociability as family dogs afforded the opportunity to learn appropriate behaviors through positive and humane interaction with people on a regular basis.



"Unknown" in the above chart means that the dogs involved in the incident were never located.

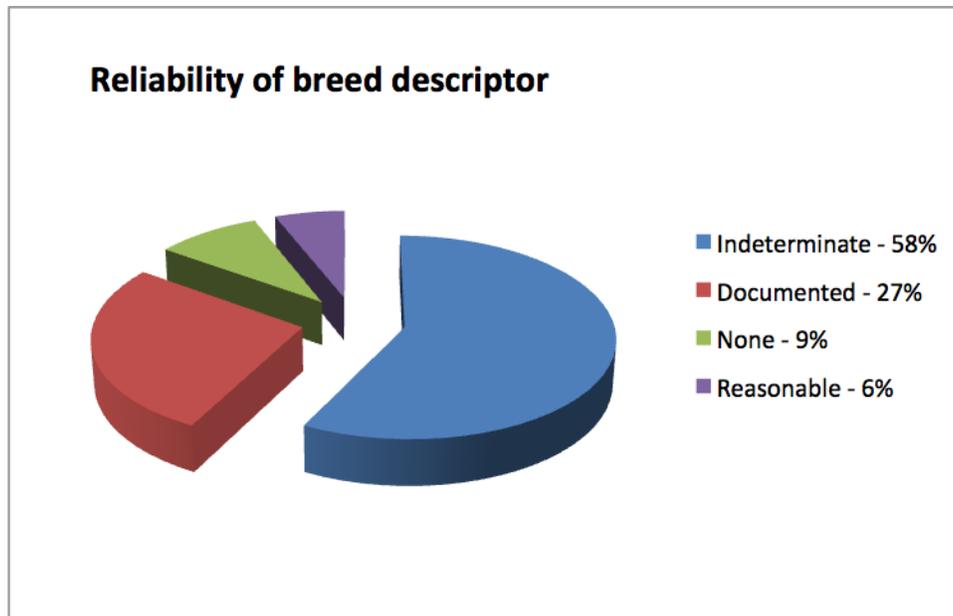
"Undetermined" in the above chart means that there is not enough information about the relationship between the dog and the owner/keeper to make a determination.

In 6 of the 33 cases, an owner and/or owner-parent was charged with a crime in relation to the incident. In 29 of the 33 cases, the owners failed to spay or neuter their dogs.

"What kind of dog was it?": Reliability of breed descriptor

Most of the dogs involved in fatalities in 2010, however they may have been described in the news, were dogs of unknown breed. In eleven of these incidents there is documentation (n=9) or other reasonable evidence (n=2) of the animal's breed or genetic makeup. Eight different breeds or types were identified in these eleven incidents.

In the other 22 cases, it was either not possible to assign a reasonably accurate breed descriptor to the dogs involved, or the dogs were never located. The breed was classified as "indeterminate" when there was no documented or reasonable evidence to substantiate a breed attribution (n=19), or "none" when the dogs were never located (n=3).



Conclusion

Dog bite-related fatalities are exceedingly rare. In 2010, 33 fatalities occurred within a human population of more than 308 million and a canine population estimated at over 78 million. The interactions between dogs and humans are so numerous and complex that no one factor can possibly be considered, in isolation from any other factors, to be the cause of what happened. There is no scientific evidence that one kind of dog is more likely to injure a human being than another kind of dog. There is no evidence that, absent circumstances specifically associated with mating or maternal protectiveness, a dog's reproductive system being intact should be understood as a cause of aggressive behavior toward human beings. And for every dog that injured someone and who had been denied a positive human relationship, untold thousands similarly kept injured no one.

Inaccurate and misleading information is regularly published about dog bite-related fatalities. We issue this collection of reports in the interest of accuracy and completeness - the more deeply one examines these incidents, the more likely one is to appreciate their complexity.

These rare tragedies remind us that all dog owners have an unequivocal responsibility for the humane care (including proper diet, veterinary care, socialization and training), custody (including licensing and micro-chipping), and control (physical or verbal) of their dogs.

A dog bite-related fatality is one where a human being has died as a result of trauma, exsanguinations or avulsions attributable to dog bites.

In cases lacking documentation or other reasonable evidence of pedigree, if any photographs of the dogs were available, we submitted them to NCRC Advisor Amy Marder, VMD, CAAB. Dr. Marder is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania's School of Veterinary Medicine, and completed the University's first behavior residency. She currently

serves as Director of the Center for Shelter Dogs at the Animal Rescue League of Boston. She is also a dog fancier, who showed Australian terriers.

**Two cases, which may appear in other compilations, do not satisfy the standard definition of a dog bite-related fatality, and are excluded here. A dog bite-related fatality is one where a human being died as a result of trauma, exsanguinations or avulsions attributable to dog bites.*

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Date: January 9, 2010
Location: San Bernardino, California
Victim: Omar Martinez, 3-year-old male

Circumstances: Two dogs resided in a large fenced-in yard that contained construction equipment and vehicles. Within the large yard, off the house, was a fenced-in patio/pool area. Omar and his grandfather were in the patio area. The grandfather went back inside the home, leaving Omar inside the patio. When the grandfather returned, he saw that Omar had opened the patio gate into the area where the dogs resided.

Did owner exercise humane care, custody, control of dog(s)? No; dog(s) regularly resided unattended on large property containing construction equipment and vehicles

Family dog or Resident dog*: Resident

Number of dog(s) involved: One; (second male dog in yard did not participate)

Sex, reproductive status of dog(s): Male, intact

Unsupervised child: Yes

Other: No established relationship between victim and dog.

Criminal Charges: No

Reliability of breed attribution: Documented

Breed attribution: American Bully / American Pit Bull Terrier

Details: ABKC and UKC Registration (Dual registration of single dog.)

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INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Date: January 17, 2010
Location: Chicago, Illinois
Victim: Johnny Wilson, 56-year-old male

Circumstances: Johnny Wilson was found by his daughter. At the time of the incident, Wilson was alone in the cluttered home with four adult dogs and two puppies, all of whom belonged to his daughter. It will never be known what contributed to this incident. However, the daughter told investigators the "dogs were afraid of her father."

Did owner exercise humane care, custody, control of dog(s)? Unknown; adult dogs and puppies inside cluttered home.

Family dog or Resident dog*: Undetermined

Number of dog(s) involved: One-four; participation of individual dogs not determined

Sex, reproductive status of dog(s): 2 Males, intact; 2 females, intact

Unsupervised child: N/A

Other: Dogs known to be fearful of victim

Criminal Charges: No

Breed attribution: Indeterminate

Details: The media reported the dogs as "pit bulls," even as Chicago Animal Care and Control identified the dogs as "mixed breeds." NCRC was unable to obtain documentation from the owner or authorities that substantiate the breed reported by the media. NCRC did obtain from Animal Care and Control the photographs it had taken of all four dogs. NCRC submitted the photographs to NCRC's expert advisor who concurred with Chicago Animal Care and Control's opinion that the breed(s) of the dogs could not be reasonably determined from the photographs.

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INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Date: February 12, 2010
Location: Hinds County, Mississippi
Victim: Anastasia Bingham, 5-year-old female

Circumstances: Anastasia had the day off from school due to a snow storm. She had gone to a neighbor's home across the street from the trailer where she lived with her grandparents. On her way home she was killed by a dog or dogs.

Over the next few months, the media reported that one "pit bull" after another was the dog that had killed Anastasia. DNA evidence ultimately determined that none of the confiscated dogs, or the dogs identified by the media, had been involved.

Investigators report that some members of Anastasia's family had been uncooperative when interviewed. Investigators now suspect that a relative of the dead girl may have destroyed and then disposed of the dog involved. The dog involved has not, as of this writing, been identified.

Did owner exercise humane care, custody, control of dog(s)? No; loose-roaming dog(s) without identification.

Family dog or Resident dog*: Unknown

Number of dog(s) involved: Unknown

Sex, reproductive status of dog(s): Unknown

Unsupervised child: Yes

Other: No known relationship between victim and dog.

Criminal Charges: No; authorities unable to identify dog(s) or owner

Breed attribution: None

Details: Authorities never located or identified dog(s) involved for causing fatality. Case remains open.

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INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Date: February 18, 2010
Location: Hennepin, Minnesota
Victim: Robert Hocker, 11-day-old male

Circumstances: The newborn infant was unattended in a car seat on a bed. The family dog, unfamiliar with the newborn, either jumped over or pushed past a gate at the bedroom doorway.

Did owner exercise humane care, custody, control of dog(s)? Unknown.

Family dog or Resident dog*: Family
Number of dog(s) involved: One
Sex, reproductive status of dog(s): Male, neutered

Unsupervised child: Yes
Other: No established relationship between victim and dog. Infant in home less than 2 weeks.

Criminal Charges: No

Reliability of breed attribution: Reasonable
Breed attribution: Siberian Husky
Details: Dog had been adopted from a Siberian Husky rescue organization.

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INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Date of Incident: February 18, 2010

Date of Death: February 23, 2010

Location: Rockdale, Georgia

Victim: Unnamed infant, 5-day-old female

Circumstances: The mother heard the baby crying and found the family pet on top of her daughter's bassinet. The infant had suffered a bite to the head. She was taken to Rockdale Medical Center and later transferred to Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, where she underwent surgery. She died 5 days later.

Did owner exercise humane care, custody, control of dog(s)? Yes

Family dog or Resident dog*: Family

Number of dog(s) involved: One

Sex, reproductive status of dog(s): Male, intact

Unsupervised child: Yes

Other: No established relationship between victim and dog. The infant, born one month premature, had been in the home less than 24 hours.

Criminal Charges: No

Breed attribution: Indeterminate

Details: The dog was reported to be a "pit bull." NCRC was unable to obtain documentation from the owner or authorities that substantiate the breed. NCRC did obtain photographs of the dog. NCRC submitted the photographs to NCRC's expert advisor who concluded the breed of the dog could not be reasonably determined from the photographs.

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INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Date: February 20, 2010

Location: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Victim: Christine Staab, 38-year-old female

Circumstances: Christine Staab arrived at her mother's home at approximately 6:00 a.m. Staab's mother reported that her daughter had a history of drug addiction and on this day appeared "to be high." An argument between mother and daughter ensued. Although the argument was not a physical altercation, at some point Christine tripped and attempted to clutch at her mother's arm as she fell. When she did so, one of her mother's five dogs attacked her.

Did owner exercise humane care, custody, control of dog(s)? Yes

Family dog or Resident dog*: Family

Number of dog(s) involved: One

Sex, reproductive status of dog(s): Female, unknown

Unsupervised child: N/A

Other: Victim stumbled or fell during altercation with mother/owner.

Criminal Charges: No

Breed attribution: Indeterminate

Details: The dog was reported to be a "pit bull." NCRC was unable to obtain documentation from the owner or authorities that substantiate the breed. NCRC did obtain photographs of the dog. NCRC submitted the photographs to NCRC's expert advisor who concluded the breed of the dog could not be reasonably determined from the photographs.

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INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Date: February 20, 2010
Location: Ocala, Florida
Victim: Violet Haaker, 3-year-old female

Circumstances: Lori Haaker bred and showed American Bulldogs. She was cleaning the backyard pen where four of her dogs resided. Each dog was chained to a separate tree inside the pen. Her daughter Violet was playing in the front yard, about 100 feet from the dogs' pen. Lori went inside to use the bathroom. When she returned to the yard, she saw that Violet had crossed the yard and entered the pen where the dogs resided.

Did owner exercise humane care, custody, control of dog(s)? Yes

Family dog or Resident dog*: Undetermined

Number of dog(s) involved: One

Sex, reproductive status of dog(s): Male, intact

Unsupervised child: Yes

Other: Unknown if victim and dog had an established relationship.

Criminal Charges: No

Reliability of breed attribution: Documented

Breed attribution: American Bulldog

Details: NKC Registered Dog

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INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Date: February 28, 2010
Location: Clatsop County, Oregon
Victim: Ashlynn Anderson, 4-year-old female

Circumstances: Ashlynn went out to play in the yard behind the home of her mother and stepfather. Two of the dogs kept in the fenced backyard had managed to escape. Only one dog, named Cornelia, was involved in the incident.

The dog had been used by her previous owner for show and breeding. Ashlynn's mother and her stepfather, Jesse Browning, had adopted the dog 6-7 months earlier. It is not clear why they obtained the dog, as they kept her in the yard, and she was not well cared for.

Did owner exercise humane care, custody, control of dog(s)? No; dog was noted to be underweight; was exclusively kept in yard; and "was not being fed adequately and had not been for some time," according to Clatsop Animal Control and an examining veterinarian.

Family dog or Resident dog*: Resident
Number of dog(s) involved: One; (another dog in the yard did not participate)
Sex, reproductive status of dog(s): Female, spayed after producing two litters.

Unsupervised child: Yes
Other: Child not a permanent resident of house; and no established relationship between victim and dog.

Criminal Charges: No

Reliability of breed attribution: Documented
Breed attribution: Rottweiler
Details: Pedigree (breeder/show) dog

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INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Date: March 8, 2010

Location: Iowa Tribe Land, near Perkins, Oklahoma

Victim: Justin Lopez, 9-month-old male

Circumstances: On Sunday, March 7, 2010, Justin's family placed two dogs they had just acquired in their yard. Less than 24 hours later, the dogs were brought inside the home because it was raining. On Monday morning, while his mother was at work and his father was sleeping, Justin's grandfather discovered the baby had been killed by at least one of the dogs.

Did owner exercise humane care, custody, control of dog(s)? No; new owners had had the dogs for less than 24 hours, and made no effort to minimize risks of exposing infant to unfamiliar dogs.

Family dog or Resident dog*: Resident dogs

Number of dog(s) involved: One-Two; participation of individual dogs not determined.

Sex, reproductive status of dog(s): Male, intact; female, intact

Unsupervised child: Yes

Other: No established relationship between victim (or anyone else in household) and dog

Criminal Charges: No

Reliability of breed attribution: Documented

Breed attribution: Rottweiler

Details: One dog was AKC registered, the other dog, while not registered, had pedigreed sire and dam.

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INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Date: April 14, 2010
Location: Pasco County, Florida
Victim: Thomas James Carter, Jr., 7-day-old male

Circumstances: Nichole Koezeno and her 7-day-old son were sleeping on a bed inside an 840-square-foot trailer in which up to ten people were living. Sidon, one of three resident dogs, was also inside the bedroom. After being awakened by a friend knocking at the door, Koezeno noticed that her son was dead from dog bites.

Did owner exercise humane care, custody, control of dog(s)? No; owners maintained two dogs on chains outdoors. Sidon, according to residents of the trailer, was inside trailer only because he fought with other dogs on the property.

Family dog or Resident dog*: Resident dog

Number of dog(s) involved: One

Sex, reproductive status of dog(s): Male, intact

Unsupervised child: No; mother sleeping

Other: No established relationship between victim and dog

Criminal Charges: No

Reliability of breed attribution: Documented

Breed attribution: Mixed breed

Details: The media, the owner, authorities and friends of the mother all insisted the dog was a "pit bull," despite the fact that no one knew the origins or original owner of the dog.

NCRC obtained DNA evidence of dog's ancestry. The dog was found not to be a "pit bull," or even a "pit bull mix."

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INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Date: May 20, 2010
Location: Napaskiak, Alaska
Victim: Krystal Brink, 3-year-old female

Circumstances: Krystal had been playing in the yard at a relative's home when she wandered unsupervised, into a neighbor's open field where seven poorly-maintained sled dogs were tied. The child passed by a number of the chained dogs before one of them killed her. After finding Krystal's body, a relative shot and killed 6 of the 7 dogs.



Junk-strewn field where dogs were chained. There was no evidence of available water for any of the dogs.

Did owner exercise humane care, custody, control of dog(s)? No; multiple dogs chained to assorted articles of discarded junk, with little to no shelter from harsh weather conditions and no access to water.

Family dog or Resident dog*: Resident
Number of dog(s) involved: One
Sex, reproductive status of dog(s): Male, intact

Unsupervised child: Yes

Other: No established relationship between victim and dog. Dogs used for sprint mushing.

Criminal Charges: No

Breed attribution: Indeterminate

Details: Dog was reported to be a "sled dog." NCRC was unable to obtain documentation from the owner or authorities that substantiate the breed. NCRC did obtain photographs of the dog. NCRC submitted the photographs to NCRC's expert advisor who concluded the breed of the dog could not be reasonably determined from the photographs.

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INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Date: May 27, 2010
Location: San Bernardino, California
Victim: Nathan Aguirre, 2-year-old male

Circumstances: Nathan had been riding his tricycle and playing with his dad in their fenced-in backyard, when his father went into the house for a few minutes to check on something. Nathan's mother, who was in the house, came out to check on him. She found him being attacked by one of the dogs in the yard. The dog stopped biting the child in response to the mother's yelling.

The child was taken to Loma Linda University Medical Center in the evening of May 27th and died several hours later on May 28th.

Did owner exercise humane care, custody, control of dog(s)? Yes

Family dog or Resident dog*: Resident
Number of dog(s) involved: One; (female dog, owned by family for much longer, did not participate)
Sex, reproductive status of dog(s): Male, intact

Unsupervised child: Yes
Other: No established relationship between victim and dog.

Criminal Charges: No

Reliability of breed attribution: Documented
Breed attribution: American Pit Bull Terrier
Details: UKC Registered

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INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Date of Incident: May 29, 2010

Date of death: June 3, 2010

Location: Kokomo, Indiana

Victim: Savannah Gragg, 9-year-old female

Circumstances: Savannah was opening a back door to let the family dog out into the yard when the dog jumped on her, knocking her to the floor. The dog bit the child's throat, lacerating her trachea, which resulted in a lack of oxygen to the brain. Savannah died 6 days later.

Did owner exercise humane care, custody, control of dog(s)? Yes

Family dog or Resident dog*: Family

Number of dog(s) involved: One

Sex, reproductive status of dog(s): Male, intact

Unsupervised child: No

Other:

Criminal Charges: No

Breed attribution: Indeterminate

Determined by: The dog was reported by the media to be a "pit bull." NCRC was unable to obtain any evidence, photographs or documentation from authorities or the owner(s) that substantiate the breed reported by the media.

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INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Date: June 15, 2010
Location: Lorain County, Ohio
Victim: Mychael Wynters, 30-year-old male

Circumstances: Mychael Wynters and his father, Michael Kywa, took in unwanted dogs. Ten dogs resided within the confines of their nine-acre property in rural Henrietta Township.

On June 15th Kywa left his house at about 11:20 a.m. He returned an hour later to find his son lying in the driveway. It appears Wynters had arrived at the house sometime after Kywa departed and had parked his car in the garage. Apparently, he was closing the driveway gate when one or more of the dogs killed him.

The nine dogs in the yard varied considerably in size and appearance. While officials believe more than one dog was involved, they were unable to determine how many or which dogs took part.

Wynters suffered from AIDS, an enlarged heart and low blood sugar. While the cause of death was cardiopulmonary arrest caused by hypoglycemic shock due to dog bites, Wynters' chronically weakened condition would have dramatically decreased his ability to fend off the dogs.

Did owner exercise humane care, custody, control of dog(s)? No; large pack of dogs free roamed, unsupervised, on owner's large, enclosed, property.

Family dog or Resident dog*: Resident

Number of dog(s) involved: Unknown; nine dogs on or near scene

Sex, reproductive status of dog(s): Males & females, intact – however, participation of dogs not known

Unsupervised child: N/A

Other: No testing done to determine how many or which dogs were involved

Criminal charges: No

Breed attribution: Indeterminate

Details:

Conflicting breed attributions given by the media, authorities and the owner. The pack of dogs was reported by different sources to have been composed of: Mastiffs, or Mastiff mixes; Rottweilers or Rottweiler mixes; Boxer mixes or Boxer/"pit bull" mixes; Bullmastiffs or "bullmastiff" mixes; a German Shorthaired Pointer or a "spaniel" mix – or simply as a large pack of mixed-breed dogs.

No breed attribution is possible since the participation of individual dogs was not determined.

*

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INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Date: July 12, 2010
Location: Wayne County, Michigan
Victim: Kyle Holland, 5-year-old male

Circumstances: Ten days earlier, Debralynn Holland, 29, had moved with her son Kyle into the home of her boyfriend Earl Dwayne Adkins. Kyle was small for his age and wore braces on his legs to help him walk. Holland stated that she found Kyle lying near his upstairs bedroom around 9:30 a.m. However, police records indicate that they did not receive a call until 10:09 a.m. Authorities later determined that Kyle had been dead for a number of hours.

Debralynn Holland was later charged with involuntary manslaughter, second-degree child abuse for keeping Kyle in an unsafe home, and as an accessory after the fact for attempting to dispose of Adkins' marijuana plants, and for giving false information to police.

The dog involved belonged to Adkins, who had a previous criminal record and who kept the animal to protect marijuana in his basement.

Did owner exercise humane care, custody, control of dog(s)? No; owner had been previously cited by animal control for allowing dog to run loose and had been advised to take the dog out of state.

Family dog or Resident dog*: Resident
Number of dog(s) involved: One; (second dog did not participate)
Sex, reproductive status of dog(s): Male, intact

Unsupervised child: Yes
Other: No established relationship between victim and dog.

Criminal Charges: Yes; Holland charged with involuntary manslaughter, 2nd degree child abuse, and being an accessory after the fact for attempting to dispose of the marijuana plants and giving false information to police.

Adkins was charged with owning a dangerous animal causing death (felony), and possession with intent to deliver, manufacture marijuana.

Reliability of breed attribution: Reasonable

Breed attribution: Wolf-dog cross

Details: The Wayne County Prosecutor's Office reported that experts were contacted and forensics tests were conducted on the animal prior to charges being filed. This evidence would be presented in court to show that the animal was a wolf-dog cross.

It is illegal to keep a wolf-dog cross in Michigan.

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INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Date: July, 20, 2010
Location: Memphis, Tennessee
Victim: William Parker, 71-year-old male

Circumstances: On July 17th, police responded to a complaint of dogs running loose on North Manassas Street. By the time officers arrived, the dogs had been secured. However, officers discovered that the owner, Bernard Humphrey, had an outstanding warrant for failing to update his address in the sex offender registry. Humphrey was arrested in connection with that warrant, and also issued a citation for violation of city ordinance 5-57 Dog License Required. Humphrey was allowed to call a relative to come and take possession of the dogs. The dogs were left secure in his apartment.

Three days later, Sherry Wooten, whose boyfriend was Humphrey's brother, released the dogs from the apartment. Wooten told authorities she "paid a crackhead \$2 to let the dogs out of the apartment so she could use the bathroom."

The dogs attacked William Parker as he was walking on a path near the residence. Four other persons were also injured by the dogs.

Did owner exercise humane care, custody, control of dog(s)? No; previous complaints of dogs running loose and unlicensed dogs.

Family dog or Resident dog*: Resident
Number of dog(s) involved: Two
Sex, reproductive status of dog(s): Male, intact; female, intact

Unsupervised child: N/A
Other: Owner in jail at time of incident on unrelated charges

Criminal Charges: Yes; Wooten charged with reckless homicide and four counts of felony reckless endangerment

Breed attribution: Indeterminate

Details: The media reported the dogs to be "pit bulls." NCRC was unable to obtain evidence or documentation from the owner(s) or authorities that substantiate the breed(s) of the dogs. NCRC did obtain photographs of the dogs. Photographs were submitted to NCRC's

expert advisor who concluded that the breed(s) of the dogs could not be reasonably determined from the photographs.

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INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Date: July 22, 2010
Location: Concord, California
Victim: Jacob Bisbee, 2-year-old male

Circumstances: At 5:30 on the morning of July 22nd, Jacob's father Michael Bisbee left to go to work. Jacob's step-grandfather Steven Hayashi left a couple hours later to play tennis. When Hayashi left, his wife and Jacob were asleep upstairs.

Hayashi kept three dogs in the garage and two in the backyard. Hayashi told investigators that he usually locked the door from the house to the garage, but had not done so that morning. He also admitted that he did not wake up his wife before he left. Ms. Hayashi worked a late shift and usually slept late.

With his grandmother still asleep upstairs, Jacob wandered downstairs, and out to the garage, where the dogs resided.

Hayashi admitted that he knew one of his dogs, "Kiwi," was "aggressive." Prosecutors have alleged that Hayashi knew the dogs were aggressive towards the children.

Did owner exercise humane care, custody, control of dog(s)? No; owner inadequately confined dog he described as "aggressive."

Family dog or Resident dog*: Resident

Number of dog(s) involved: Three

Sex, reproductive status of dog(s): Female, (spayed after producing at least one litter); and her two 18 month offspring, intact

Unsupervised child: Yes

Other: No established relationship between victim and dog

Criminal Charges: Yes; grandfather charged with involuntary manslaughter

Breed attribution: Indeterminate

Details: The media reported the dogs to be "pit bulls." Three dogs were suspected of being involved. One dog was adopted from a shelter and the other two dogs were her offspring from a mating with an unknown dog. The history and genetics of all dogs are unknown. NCRC obtained photographs of all 3 dogs. The photographs were submitted to NCRC's expert advisor who

concluded that the breed(s) of the dogs could not be reasonably determined from the photographs.

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INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Date: July 31, 2010
Location: San Diego, California
Victim: Aaron Carlson, 2-year-old male

Circumstances: At around 2:00 a.m., after drinking "four or five glasses of bourbon and cola," Valerie Carlson fell asleep on the couch in her home. Her husband Justin was in the service and deployed at sea. Earlier that evening, one of her four children, Aaron, smeared a peanut butter and jelly sandwich all over himself. Valerie had put Aaron to bed without giving him a bath. Also, she had not placed the dog, Zeus, who had been adopted four months earlier, in his crate, because she "was just tired and didn't feel like it."

The next morning, Lauren, 7, came downstairs and tried to ask her mother for breakfast. She was unable to wake her. Lauren went back upstairs and found her brother Aaron on the floor in a bedroom, with the dog biting his head. Lauren went back downstairs to tell her mother; Lauren stated, "but she didn't do anything because she didn't wake up." With her mother still asleep in the couch, Lauren took her younger sister, Emily, and her younger brother, J.C., to a neighbor's house because she was worried the dog would hurt them too. A neighbor responded, but Valerie did not come to the door. Other neighbors entered the house, found Aaron, and called 911.

Authorities noted in the arrest warrant declaration that the house was "extremely unsanitary," with stained floors and carpets, dirty dishes piled in the kitchen sink, cigarettes on the floor and dog feces and urine in the bedrooms.

Did owner exercise humane care, custody, control of dog(s)? No; necropsy found dog to be "underfed." The dog, known to be "hyper" around the children, was not safely confined during the night.

Family dog or Resident dog*: Resident
Number of dog(s) involved: One
Sex, reproductive status of dog(s): Male, unknown

Unsupervised child: Yes

Other: Mother could not be roused even after another child notified her that Aaron was being bitten by the dog.

Criminal Charges: Yes; mother charged with eleven counts of felony child endangerment and four counts of misdemeanor child endangerment. (Her blood alcohol

level tested at .15) She later pleaded guilty to four counts of child endangerment and was sentenced to one year in jail and five years' probation.

Breed attribution: Indeterminate

Details: Dog was reported to be a German Shepherd Dog or a German Shepherd Dog mix. NCRC was unable to obtain any evidence or documentation from the owner(s) or authorities that substantiate the breed(s) of the dogs. Dog was obtained from a Craigslist.com posting. NCRC did obtain photographs of the dog. Photographs were submitted to NCRC's expert advisor who concluded that the breed(s) of the dog could not be reasonably determined from the photographs.

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INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Date: August 19, 2010
Location: Macon, Georgia
Victim: Tracey Brazzell Payne, 46-year-old female

Circumstances: Tracey Payne was found dead in a vacant lot, across a dirt road from an enclosure containing three dogs. On Aug. 20th, the *Macon Telegraph* reported that Payne had been killed by a “pack of pit bulls.”

During the next two days (August 20th and 21st), despite all officials refusing to speculate on whether a “pack of pit bulls” was involved in the woman’s death and insisting that their investigations were not complete, the Macon media reported that not only did the “pit bulls” kill Ms. Payne but that, “the same dogs that mauled Payne had attacked a man walking past the house the night before.”

Upon completion of their investigation, the Macon Police Department concluded that:

Ms. Payne was not killed by a “pack of pit bulls roaming loose on the property.” Those dogs were, in fact, securely confined in an enclosure that neither the dogs nor Ms. Payne had breached. Nor, the police concluded, were they the dogs who had “attacked another man the night before.”

Police reported seeing an altogether different dog pacing back and forth on the site where Ms. Payne was found, which had fled before officers could capture it.



The media published this photo with the declaration that these were the dogs who had killed Tracy Payne and injured another man. Although seized by authorities, the dogs were later

found **NOT** to have been involved in either incident and their owner was allowed to reclaim them.

Did owner exercise humane care, custody, control of dog(s)? No; loose-roaming dog(s)

Family dog or Resident dog*: Unknown

Number of dog(s) involved: Unknown

Sex, reproductive status of dog(s): Unknown

Unsupervised child: N/A

Other: Victim impaired (drug use)

Dog(s) involved were never located

Criminal Charges: No; authorities not able to identify owner or dog(s)

Breed attribution: None

Details: The dog(s) involved were never identified or located by authorities. Case remains an open investigation.

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INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Date: August 22, 2010

Location: Calaveras County, California

Victim: Jerry Lee Yates, 69-year-old male

Circumstances: In March 2010, Jerry Yates allowed Sheryl Sellers and her two dogs to move onto his Mountain Ranch property. At first Sellers lived out of her truck. Then, in July, Sellers obtained a trailer, which Yates allowed her to park on his land.

On Aug. 22, Sellers' two dogs escaped the wire enclosure that Sellers had installed around her trailer, and killed Yates while he was working on his property.

Sellers had a history of allowing her dogs to become problematic, aggressive, and threatening to neighbors. In 2005, while Sellers was living with a man named Michael Richard on his 20-acre property on Oak Lane, at least three of her neighbors filed complaints with Animal Services, resulting in numerous citations for code violations by Calaveras County Animal Services.

Did owner exercise humane care, custody, control of dog(s)? No; numerous previous complaints of dogs running loose and behaving menacingly resulting in citations by animal control.

Family dog or Resident dog*: Resident

Number of dog(s) involved: Two

Sex, reproductive status of dog(s): Female, spayed (after producing at least one litter); male, neutered (offspring of the female)

Unsupervised child: N/A

Other: Dogs were required to be neutered by animal control after previous incidents.

Criminal Charges: Yes: felony charges of knowingly having a mischievous animal, letting it be at large, keeping it without ordinary care, resulting in the death of a human being. Charges were later dismissed.

Breed attribution: Indeterminate

Details:

Dogs were reported to be "pit bulls." NCRC was unable to obtain evidence, photographs or documentation that substantiates the breed(s) of the dogs.

*

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INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Date: August 25, 2010
Location: Marshall, Illinois
Victim: Jason Walter, 7-year-old male

Circumstances: Jason and his mother were staying the night at the farmhouse of a friend. Jason died from multiple dog bites suffered shortly before 7:15 a.m. in the driveway of the home.

One of the dogs involved belonged to Eric Shanklin, the owner of the property; the other 3 dogs involved belonged to the occupant of a trailer located on his property. That owner, Karen Brady, had brought the 3 dogs with her when she moved into Shanklin's rental trailer a few months earlier.

Marshall County Sheriff's Office reported after the incident they received phone calls reporting previous aggressive behavior from at least some of the dogs. A number of people, including a cable installer and auto mechanic reported being menaced, though not bitten, when they came to the Shanklin property. No charges were filed against either owner.

Did owner exercise humane care, custody, control of dog(s)? No; previous complaints of dogs running loose and behaving menacingly.

Family dog or Resident dog*: Resident

Number of dog(s) involved: Four (all four dogs determined to be involved)

Sex, reproductive status of dog(s): 1 female, intact; 1 female, intact and her 2 adult offspring (1 male, intact; 1 female, intact)

Unsupervised child: Yes

Other: Three dogs new to location. No established relationship between victim and dogs.

Criminal Charges: No

Breed attribution: Indeterminate

Details: Conflicting breed identifications given by media and authorities included: "three pit bulls" or "three pit bull mixes" and a "mixed breed," or a "shepherd mix," or a "collie/sheltie mix." NCRC

was unable to obtain evidence or documentation from the owner(s) or authorities to substantiate any of the breed attributions.

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INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Date: August 25, 2010
Location: Hubbard Township, Wisconsin
Victim: Taylor Becker, 4-year-old female

Circumstances: Jennifer Becker was visiting the home of a friend when her daughter Taylor wandered out the back door. Taylor was found in the backyard with the dog's chain wrapped around her legs. The dog, Rocky, was a short distance away. The dog had previously been chained to a post in yard, but at some point had slipped out of his collar.

Rocky had recently sired a litter of puppies with another resident dog, Rosie. Rocky had been chained approximately 10 feet from a shed where Rosie and her 4-week-old puppies were being kept. The owner informed police that he had purchased Rocky two to three months prior, in order to breed him with his female; and that he had now planned to re-sell the dog.

Did owner exercise humane care, custody, control of dog(s)? No; dog maintained exclusively on chain. Dog obtained exclusively for breeding and then to be resold.

Family dog or Resident dog*: Resident
Number of dog(s) involved: One.
Sex, reproductive status of dog(s): Male, intact

Unsupervised child: Yes

Other: No established relationship between victim and dog. Child may have been entangled in dog's chain either prior to or during incident.

Criminal Charges: No

Reliability of breed attribution: Documented
Breed attribution: Boxer
Details: AKC Registration

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INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Date: September 4, 2010
Location: McMinn County, Tennessee
Victim: Mattie Daugherty, 85-year-old female

Circumstances: Family and friends were working on the exterior of the home of Daugherty's daughter, when Mattie Daugherty went inside. The daughter's dog had already been placed inside the home due to the commotion and noise from the construction work being done to the roof. The family speculates that the noise from the construction may have caused the nine-year-old dog to become agitated and kill Daugherty when she entered the home.

Did owner exercise humane care, custody, control of dog(s)? Yes

Family dog or Resident dog*: Family
Number of dog(s) involved: One
Sex, reproductive status of dog(s): Male, intact

Unsupervised child: N/A
Other: N/A

Criminal Charges: No

Breed attribution: Indeterminate

Details: Media reported the dog to be a "pit bull." NCRC was unable to obtain evidence or documentation from the owner or authorities that substantiate the breed of the dog. NCRC did obtain photographs of the dog. Photographs were submitted to NCRC's expert advisor who concluded that the breed of the dog could not be reasonably determined from the photographs.

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INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Date: October 13, 2010
Location: Callaway, Missouri
Victim: John Reynolds, 84-year-old male

Circumstances: John Reynolds and his son bred and raised dogs on their rural Callaway County property. Reynolds was found dead inside one of the kennels, in which 3 dogs (1 male and 2 females) resided. At the time Reynolds was found, the kennel gate was open and there were no dogs in the kennel or near the victim.

A 91 lb. male dog that had previously been inside the kennel was found mauled and near death under a chicken coop on the property. Two female dogs that were kenneled with the male dog were found hiding in high grass more than 500 feet away. Detectives could find no marks, bites or injuries on the two female dogs to indicate either that they had killed Reynolds or severely injured the male dog.

Reynolds' son reported that previously he and his animals, as well as his neighbors' animals had been menaced or attacked by stray dogs.

Did owner exercise humane care, custody, control of dog(s)? No; loose roaming, unknown dog(s)

Family dog or Resident dog*: Unknown

Number of dog(s) involved: Unknown

Sex, reproductive status of dog(s): Unknown

Unsupervised child: N/A

Other:

Criminal Charges: No; authorities unable to locate owner or dog(s)

Breed attribution: None

Details: The media reported that the victim was killed by his "pit bulls," despite the fact that none of Reynolds' dogs were seized by authorities. There was no evidence (blood, bite marks, etc.) to indicate that any of Reynolds' dogs were involved in the attack. On the contrary, the male dog had been severely injured and it could not be determined how the dog's injuries occurred.

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Date of Incident: October 14, 2010 **Date of Death:** December 5, 2010

Location: Riverside County, California

Victim: Edward Mitchell, 67-year-old male

Circumstances: Edward Mitchell was in the backyard of his family's Murrieta home, along with three dogs who belonged to his great-nephew. For unknown reasons, Mitchell began "disciplining" one of the dogs. The dog subsequently severely injured Mitchell.

As a result of the injuries he sustained, Mitchell was hospitalized for two weeks, after which he was transferred to a skilled nursing home. He was discharged and returned his home on November 27th. On December 5th, his great-nephew found him dead in his bed.

The coroner listed his cause of death as: "sequela of multiple dog bites with atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease as a contributory factor."

Did owner exercise humane care, custody, control of dog(s)? Unknown

Family dog or Resident dog*: Unknown

Number of dog(s) involved: One

Sex, reproductive status of dog(s): Male, intact

Unsupervised child: N/A

Other: Victim died 7 weeks after incident

Criminal Charges: No

Breed attribution: Indeterminate

Details: The media reported the dog to be a "pit bull." NCRC was unable to obtain evidence of documentation from the owner or authorities that substantiate the breed assigned by the media. NCRC did obtain photographs of the dog. The photographs were submitted to NCRC's expert advisor who concluded the breed of dog could not be reasonably determined from the photographs.

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INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Date: October 24, 2010
Location: Jacksonville, Florida
Victim: Justin Valentin, 3-day-old male

Circumstances: The infant's mother briefly left the infant on a bed around 10:30 p.m. When she returned, she found the infant had been bitten by the family's dog. The child was transported to Shands Jacksonville Medical Center, where he later died.

Did owner exercise humane care, custody, control of dog(s)? Yes

Family dog or Resident dog*: Family
Number of dog(s) involved: One
Sex, reproductive status of dog(s): Male, unknown

Unsupervised child: Yes
Other: No established relationship between victim and dog. Infant in home less than 72 hours.

Criminal Charges: No

Breed attribution: Indeterminate

Details: The dog was reported to be a "pit bull." NCRC was unable to obtain evidence or documentation from the owner or authorities that substantiate the breed of the dog. NCRC did obtain photographs of the dog. Photographs were submitted to NCRC's expert advisor who concluded that the breed of the dog could not be reasonably determined from the photographs.

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INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Date of Incident: November 2, 2010
Location: Riverside, California
Victim: Christina Casey, 53-year-old female

Circumstances: According to Bill Casey, his sister Christina was only two days away from moving out of her home. One of the reasons she was moving was the menacing behavior of her neighbor's two dogs. Casey says his sister repeatedly complained the dogs were breaking through her fence and threatening her. On November 2, Christina was found dead in her yard and her neighbor's dogs were determined to have caused her death.

Did owner exercise humane care, custody, control of dog(s)? No; owners repeatedly allowed dogs to escape yard and menace neighbor.

Family dog or Resident dog*: Resident
Number of dog(s) involved: Two
Sex, reproductive status of dog(s): Unknown (open investigation)

Unsupervised child: N/A
Other: Victim moving out of home, in part due to neighbor's failure to control dogs.

Criminal Charges: Yes; open investigation as of December 2011

Breed attribution: Indeterminate

Details: Conflicting reports by authorities and the media, police and animal control. The dog were reported to be "pit bulls," "pit bull mixes," "pit bull/Weimaraner mixes," or "one dog was a pit bull mix and the other as possibly being at least part Akita." NCRC was unable to obtain photographs or any other documentation that might resolve these differing opinions.

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INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Date: November 8, 2010
Location: Ida Grove, Iowa
Victim: Shirley Lou Bird, 79-year-old female

Circumstances: Shirley Bird lived alone with her dog, Buck. Six years after purchasing the dog, Bird still had difficulty controlling him. Bird believed the dog was unable to be in the company of anyone else but her, and lived a rather isolated existence.

On November 8th, Buck injured Bird. She retreated into the bathroom and closed the door behind her. She was found in the bathroom, having bled to death. Beside her was a water bottle which she reportedly used in an attempt to exert some control over the dog. The contents of the water bottle were never determined.

Did owner exercise humane care, custody, control of dog(s)? No; dog had repeatedly shown aggressive behavior to both the owner and others. The owner at times encouraged this behavior towards strangers, yet seemed unable to control when this behavior was directed at her.

Family dog or Resident dog*: Family
Number of dog(s) involved: One
Sex, reproductive status of dog(s): Male, intact

Unsupervised child: N/A
Other: Owner unwilling/unable to address her dog's aggressiveness.

Criminal Charges: No

Reliability of breed attribution: Documented
Breed attribution: German Shepherd Dog
Details: Pedigree dog purchased from breeder

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INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Date: November 10, 2010
Location: Rusk County, Texas
Victim: Kaden Muckleroy, 2-year-old male

Circumstances: Two-year-old Kaden, unsupervised, wandered out to a chained dog in his grandfather's backyard. His grandfather, Kelvin Muckleroy, kept more than 30 dogs in his yard, many of whom were neglected and in poor physical condition.

The dog involved in the incident had previously been owned by Muckleroy's son, who was murdered in Longview, Texas in 2009, over a "money dispute."

Did owner exercise humane care, custody, control of dog(s)? No; dozens of dogs on property, chained/kenneled, many with serious untreated medical issues.

Family dog or Resident dog*: Resident
Number of dog(s) involved: One
Sex, reproductive status of dog(s): Male, intact

Unsupervised child: Yes

Other: The original owner of the dog, Kelvin Muckleroy Jr., had criminal convictions for assault and theft. He had also been cited by animal control for chaining the dog in violation of the city's anti-tethering law.

The present owner, Kelvin Muckleroy Sr., had a felony conviction in 2004 for assault with a deadly weapon.

Criminal Charges: No

Breed attribution: Indeterminate

Details: The media reported the dog to be a "pit bull." NCRC was unable to obtain any evidence or documentation from the owner or authorities that substantiate the breed of dog reported by the media.

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INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Date: November 15, 2010
Location: Phenix City, Alabama
Victim: Cason Bryant, 5-year-old male

Circumstances: Cason was playing in the backyard with his dog when his neighbor's dogs (8-10 dogs) crawled under the fence. Investigators speculate, based on the bite marks to Bryant's dog, that the neighbor's dogs first bit the victim's dog and then all the dogs redirected on the boy. Eight dogs, including the boy's own dog, were determined to have participated.

Did owner exercise humane care, custody, control of dog(s)? No; poor fencing that allowed a large number of dogs to escape

Family dog or Resident dog*: Resident

Number of dog(s) involved: Eight

Sex, reproductive status of dog(s): Males and females; altered

Unsupervised child: Yes, but child in his own yard

Other: No established relationship between victim and the neighbor's dogs.

Large pack of dogs

Criminal Charges: No

Breed attribution: Indeterminate

Details: Dogs agreed upon by all parties to be mixed-breed dogs of unknown genetics.

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INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Date: November 17, 2010

Location: Dillon County, South Carolina

Victim: Justin Lane, 25-year-old male

Circumstances: Justin Lane's dog Smoke spent most of his life chained in the backyard. On the evening of November 17th, Smoke was brought into the trailer home because of severe thunderstorms. Justin was sleeping on a couch in the living room when at some point during the night the dog inflicted severe injuries on him. Justin's mother was also sleeping in the living room. There is no explanation as to why Justin's mother did not awaken during the incident.

Did owner exercise humane care, custody, control of dog(s)? No; dog regularly kept chained in yard, although owner did bring dog inside due to severe weather.

Family dog or Resident dog*: Resident

Number of dog(s) involved: One

Sex, reproductive status of dog(s): Male, intact

Unsupervised child: N/A

Other: Severe thunderstorms at time of incident; the victim had a history of seizure disorder. It is possible that since this dog rarely interacted with the owner, the dog may have been agitated by Lane's behavior if he was seizing.

Criminal Charges: No

Breed attribution: Indeterminate

Details: The dog was reported to be a "pit bull." NCRC was unable to obtain any evidence or documentation from the owner or authorities to verify the breed of the dog.

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INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Date: December 8, 2010
Location: Sundance, New Mexico
Victim: Larry Armstrong, 55-year-old man

Circumstances: Larry Armstrong was found dead near a road in the small community of Sundance, on Navajo Nation land near Gallup, New Mexico. McKinley County deputies had to chase away a number of starving dogs near his body. Afterward, authorities captured more than 75 stray dogs in the area where Armstrong was found.

An autopsy report stated that Armstrong suffered from seizures and had been taken to the hospital for that problem the day before his death. The New Mexico Office of the Medical Investigator reported that they do not know whether Armstrong was suffering a seizure at the time he was killed.

Did owner exercise humane care, custody, control of dog(s)? No; loose roaming, starving dogs.

Family dog or Resident dog*: Resident

Number of dog(s) involved: Unknown; participation of individual dogs in pack not determined

Sex, reproductive status of dog(s): Males, intact; females, intact

Unsupervised child: N/A

Other: Victim was homeless and suffered a seizure disorder. It is possible that the dogs became agitated if Armstrong did experience seizure.

Large number of starving dogs

Criminal Charges: No

Breed attribution: Indeterminate

Details: Authorities captured more than 75 dogs near the area where the victim was found. All involved parties agree the dogs were "reservation dogs" of unknown genetics.

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INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Date: December 19, 2010
Location: Harris County, Texas
Victim: Janet Vaughan, 3-month-old female

Circumstances: The infant was in a swing in the living room while her mother was bathing one of her 9 dogs in the bathroom. The backdoor to the home was broken and could not be latched. Janet's mother had positioned a board at the base of the door and then wedged the board behind a washing machine to prevent the dogs living in the yard from entering the home. One large male dog easily managed to push his way past the poorly-secured obstruction and into the home.

Did owner exercise humane care, custody, control of dog(s)? No; owner ineffectively attempted to restrict multiple large dogs from entering through broken back door.

Family dog or Resident dog*: Resident
Number of dog(s) involved: One
Sex, reproductive status of dog(s): Male, intact

Unsupervised child: Yes
Other: No established relationship between victim and dog

Criminal Charges: No

Reliability of breed attribution: Reasonable

Breed attribution: Rottweiler

Details: The dog was reported to be a "Rottweiler." NCRC was unable to obtain evidence or documentation from the owner or authorities that substantiate the breed of the dog. NCRC did obtain photographs of the dog. Photographs were submitted to NCRC's expert advisor who concluded it was reasonable to identify the dog as a Rottweiler.

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Two additional fatalities are not included in this report, as they do not meet the prerequisites to be classified as a dog bite-related fatality:

February 7, 2010: [Carolyn Baker \(COD: Cardiovascular disease\)](#)

March 4, 2010: [Ethel Baker Horton \(COD: Heart attack\)](#)