

The National Canine Research Council Report 2007

FATAL DOG ATTACKS, THE TRUTH BEHIND THE TRAGEDY: IT'S THE OWNER, NOT THE DOG

Extensive research and investigation using 40 years of data has conclusively identified the *ownership/management practices* that can cause a dog to behave dangerously:

Function of Dog –

Owners obtaining dogs, and maintaining them as resident dogs outside of the household for purposes other than as family pets (i.e. guarding/ protection, fighting, intimidation/status, irresponsible and negligent breeding).

Owner Management & Control of Dogs –

Owners failing to humanely contain, control and maintain their dogs (chained dogs, loose roaming dogs, cases of abuse/neglect); owners failing to knowledgably supervise interaction between children and dogs.

Reproductive Status of Dog –

Owners failing to spay or neuter animals not used for competition, show, or in a responsible breeding program.

91% of all fatal dog attacks from 2005-2007 were due to one or more of these critical factors.

Tabulations of fatal dog attacks by breed yield no understanding of human/canine interaction and offer no remedies to enhance community safety. Forty years ago, Pit bulls and Rottweilers combined were involved in less than 2% of all fatal attacks. **Nevertheless, one or more of these same critical factors was evident in 90% of all fatal dog attacks during that time.**

From 2005-2007, increased focus on negligent and criminal human behaviors has resulted in 31% of owners and/or parents of young victims being criminally charged.

Holding owners accountable for the humane treatment, containment, and control of their dogs is the only way to minimize incidence of canine aggression.