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From: lissa.scott [lissa.scott@verizon.net]
Sent: Thursday, June 05, 2008 10:07 PM
To: 'extmagdrl@yahoogroups.com'
Subject: Dog Owner Education Topic #47: About Dog Bites

Hi All,

As we enter the peak season for dog bites, I'm sharing information on this subject as Dog Owner Education Topic #47: About Dog Bites.

Dr. Linda Shore researched dog bites several years ago and wrote an article about bites to humans that occur in dog parks. In her research she uncovered some very interesting facts about Canadian dog bites that correlate with US data collected by the HSUS and the CDC: (<http://www.dogexpert.com/Literature/Offleashsafety.htm>)

- (1) Over 70% of all bites were sustained by children between 2 and 14 years.
- (2) The majority (80%) of dog bites incurred by persons aged ≤ 18 years are inflicted by a family dog (30%) or a neighbor's dog (50%). During 1997--1998, a total of 75% of fatal dog bites were inflicted on family members or guests on the family's property. In 2001, an estimated 16,476 (8%) dog bites to persons aged ≥ 16 years were work-related.
- (3) Most dogs involved in bite incidents (65.2%) were either part of the family, part of the extended family, or were part of a friend's family.
- (4) The majority of bite incidents (64.6%) occurred in someone's home.
- (5) The majority of bite victims had been interacting with the dog. These interactions included playing with a dog (17.5%), petting or feeding a dog (18.5%), hurting or provoking a dog (7.8%), and disciplining a dog (5.7%). In total, interacting with a dog provoked almost half (49.5%) of all dog bites.

Many already know this, but for those who don't, the Centers for Disease Control study on the breeds involved in human bite-related fatalities still frames the public's assumptions about which breeds to fear. In this 20 year study, statistics showed the following fatalities caused by purebred dogs: "Pit Bull type" dogs (66): Rottweiler (39 deaths); German Shepherd Dog (17); Husky-type (15); Malamute (12); Doberman Pinscher (9); Chow Chow (8); **Great Dane (7)**; and St. Bernard (7.) (<http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/duip/dogbreeds.pdf>)

However with 68 million pet dogs in the United States, you are more likely to fall to your death from a hot air balloon accident than to die from a dog bite. And as of 2001, the last year data was collected, the rate of US non-fatal dog bites reported was only 129.3 per 100,000 population.

So what is the best way to prevent dog bites and bite-related fatalities? Encourage responsible dog ownership – spay/neuter, training/socialization, appropriate veterinary care, supervise dogs with children, safely/securely confine dogs when outdoors, let dogs live indoors and integrate them into the home and family. And please don't hesitate to call your local animal warden/animal control officer when you encounter irresponsible dog ownership. We all try to be good neighbors, but remember that your call may prevent someone from getting hurt -- or worse.

As always, thanks for educating yourself to help all dogs and their owners!

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MAGDRL web: <http://www.magdrl.org>
MAGDRL events: <http://www.lissa.net/Joya/MAGDRL.htm>

Bloat info: http://www.lissa.net/Joya/Merlot_bloat.htm

Gastropexy info: <http://www.lissa.net/Joya/Lapro-Pexy.htm>

"A dog is the only thing on earth that loves you more than he loves himself." - Josh Billings

