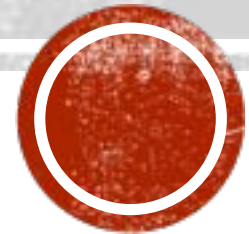


Investigating Serious and Fatal Dog Attacks

A suggested protocol with analysis

Australian Institute of Animal Management
Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
October 19, 2017



THE PROBLEM



- Almost 5 million dog bites every year



**50% OF ALL CHILDREN WILL BE BITTEN BY A DOG BY
THE TIME THEY GRADUATE HIGH SCHOOL**



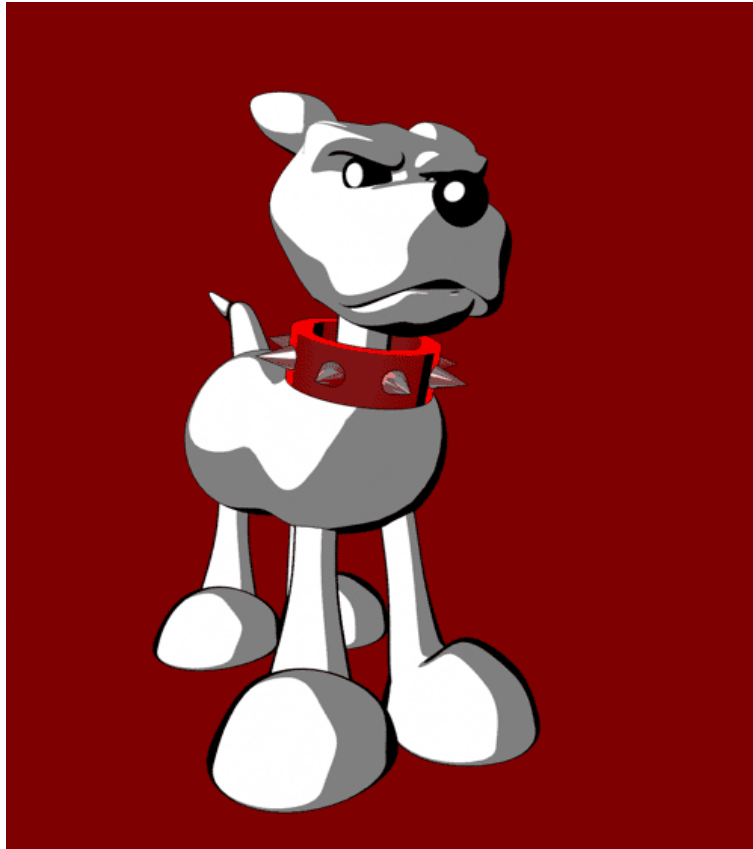
Approximately 35 people a year in the US
die from dog attacks.



It's not as bad as it could be...

- US Population is about 300 million
- Dogs killed 32 people in 2014
- Lightning kills about 66 people a year (2002 figure)
- In 2004 119 people in the US were killed by **CATTLE**

Reality check



- In fact, let's compare dog attack deaths with domestic violence statistics:
- In 2005 there were thirteen children killed by dogs in the US.
- *Yet domestic violence statistics show that about 1300 children were killed by their own parents in the same period.*

Why so few?

- Dogs have co-existed with humans for between 60,000 and 140,00 years.
- Dogs are not little wolves-they have progressed on their own evolutionary path *in tandem* with the evolution of human society.
- Dogs have been selected, by human intervention, for *cooperative existence*. They are our friends and family companions.

WHO ARE THE VICTIMS?

- 76% of all fatal attack victims are 12 years old or less.
- Children don't read dog warning signals as well as adults.
 - Kids see dogs as friendly, huggable plush toys.
 - A child's only experience may be with their own family dog, one that knows them and is tolerant.
 - A child may not have been taught appropriate behavior around a dog.
- Most other victims are 60 or older.
 - It is rare for a healthy adult to be killed in a dog attack.

What is your part in this process?

- To try to prevent this...



What do we need?

- A competent, thorough investigation that is established by evidence:
 - Documenting
 - Collecting
 - Assessing

FINAL ATTACK, LONG HISTORY

- Victim was killed by a 5 year old “Staffordshire Terrier” named Brutus..
- Victim: 2 years old
- Location: In the dog’s home where the victim, her mother and sister were guests. They had been in the home several times before. The dog had previously been contained while they were there.



ARIANNA FLEEMAN

- Victim: 2 years old
- Location: In the dog's home where the victim, her mother and sister were guests. They had been in the home several times before. The dog had previously been contained while they were there.

- The rest of the story:
 - I was able to identify five adults that Brutus had previously bitten, several seriously. All were bitten turning and walking away from the dog. Owner was aware of the bites and took no extra measures such as training, containment, etc. Also in the house at the time of attack was a female and eleven puppies from Brutus' litter.



THE RESULT:

- Donald Brewer was successfully prosecuted by the Cabell County, WV Prosecutor and received one year in prison for manslaughter, the most severe sentence he could receive under West Virginia law.
- Unfortunately the dog ALSO lost his life.



WHAT IS A DOG BITE?

Generally three classes of incidents:

- Pre-bite behaviors:
 - Growl
 - Snarl
 - Air snap
 - Muzzle punch
- Non-bites:

Scratches, bruises, red marks

And bites.



WORKING DEFINITION:

- A bite is when teeth contact skin with **some discernable effect** on the skin.



HOW FAST IS A DOG BITE?



ID=001



EVALUATING BITES

- We must be able to evaluate bites using solid, quantifiable standards. “Really bad” is neither reproducible nor clear.

1. Intent
What was the dog trying to do?
2. Intensity
How hard did the dog bite?
3. Frequency
How many bites?



IAN DUNBAR SIX LEVEL BITE ASSESSMENT



Dr. Ian Dunbar's Dog Bite Scale (Official Authorized Version)

An assessment of the severity of biting problems based on an objective evaluation of wound pathology

Level 1. Obnoxious or aggressive behavior but no skin-contact by teeth.

Level 2. Skin-contact by teeth but no skin-puncture. However, may be skin nicks (less than one tenth of an inch deep) and slight bleeding caused by forward or lateral movement of teeth against skin, but no vertical punctures.

Level 3. One to four punctures from a single bite with no puncture deeper than half the length of the dog's canine teeth. Maybe lacerations in a single direction, caused by victim pulling hand away, owner pulling dog away, or gravity (little dog jumps, bites and drops to floor).

Level 4. One to four punctures from a single bite with at least one puncture deeper than half the length of the dog's canine teeth. May also have deep bruising around the wound (dog held on for N seconds and bore down) or lacerations in both directions (dog held on and shook its head from side to side).

Level 5. Multiple-bite incident with at least two Level 4 bites or multiple-attack incident with at least one Level 4 bite in each.

Level 6. Victim dead.

The above list concerns unpleasant behavior and so, to add perspective:

Levels 1 and 2 comprise well over 99% of dog incidents. The dog is certainly not dangerous and more likely to be fearful, rambunctious, or out of control. Wonderful prognosis. Quickly resolve the problem with basic training (control) — especially oodles of Classical Conditioning, numerous repetitive Retreat n' Treat, Come/Sit/Food Reward and Back-up/Approach/Food Reward sequences, progressive desensitization handling exercises, plus numerous bite-inhibition exercises and games. Hand feed only until resolved; do NOT waste potential food rewards by feeding from a bowl.

Level 3: Prognosis is fair to good, provided that you have owner compliance. However, treatment is both time-consuming and not without danger. Rigorous bite-inhibition exercises are essential.

Levels 4: The dog has insufficient bite inhibition and is very dangerous. Prognosis is poor because of the difficulty and danger of trying to teach bite inhibition to an adult hard-biting dog and because absolute owner-compliance is rare. Only work with the dog in exceptional circumstances, e.g., the owner is a dog professional and has sworn 100% compliance. Make sure the owner signs a form in triplicate stating that they understand and take full responsibility that: 1. The dog is a Level 4 biter and is likely to cause an equivalent amount of damage WHEN it bites again (which it most probably will) and should therefore, be confined to the home at all times and only allowed contact with adult owners. 2. Whenever, children or guests visit the house, the dog should be confined to a single locked-room or roofed, chain-link run with the only keys kept on a chain around the neck of each adult owner (to prevent children or guests entering the dog's confinement area.) 3. The dog is muzzled before leaving the house and only leaves the house for visits to a veterinary clinic. 4. The incidents have all been reported to the relevant authorities — animal control or police. Give the owners one copy, keep one copy for your files and give one copy to the dog's veterinarian.

Level 5 and 6: The dog is extremely dangerous and mutilates. The dog is simply not safe around people. I recommend euthanasia because the quality of life is so poor for dogs that have to live out their lives in solitary confinement.

6
5
4
3
2
1



- Clearly quantify and describe bites to evaluate and compare clear, measurable criteria.

LEVEL I

Dog growls, lunges, snarls-no teeth touch skin.

Mostly intimidation behavior.



No contact

LEVEL 2

Teeth touch skin but no puncture.

May have red mark/minor bruise from dog's head or snout, may have minor scratches from paws/nails.

Minor surface abrasions acceptable.

LEVEL 3

**Punctures $\frac{1}{2}$ the length of a canine tooth,
one to four holes, single bite.**

No tearing or slashes.

Victim not shaken side to side.

Bruising.



LEVEL 4

One to four holes from a single bite, one hole deeper than $\frac{1}{2}$ the length of a canine tooth, typically contact/punctures from more than canines only.

Black bruising, tears and/or slashing wounds.

Dog clamped down and shook or slashed victim.

LEVEL
5

**Multiple bites at Level 4 or above.
A concerted, repeated attack.**

LEVEL 6

Any bite or bites resulting in death of a human.

CAUTIONS IN USING SEVERITY TO EXTRAPOLATE INTENT:

- The dog may have a defect in bite inhibition.
 - Lack of socialization
 - Medication
- This may lead to an over assessment of the bite but it is still a problem. Don't assume that the dog was NOT in control.

CAUTIONS 2

- The results of the incident may not have been within the dog's control.
- More serious injury can be caused by the victim's reaction.
 - Pulling away, running, screaming

CAUTION 3

- It's not all “location, location, location”.
- Try and determine if the bite was to the closest target or was directed to a specific site.



CAUTION 4

- Make sure the bite is what it seems.

- Was injury worsened by pulling away?
- Did the victim exacerbate the injury?

We are not **BLAMING** the victim-we are looking for contributing factors.

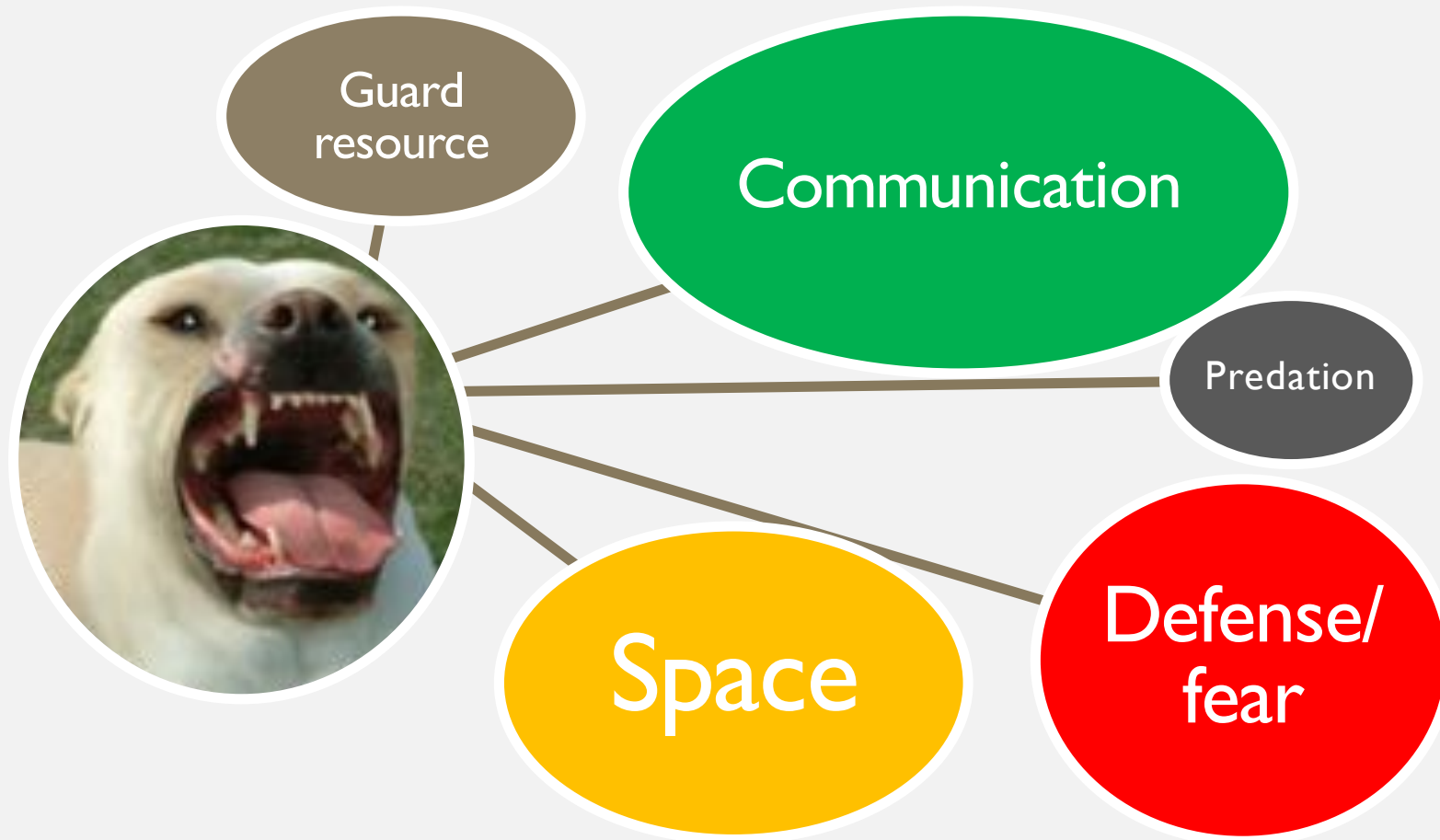
- Was it really a dog injury?



HUMAN FACTORS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO DOG BITES

- Failure to inhibit bad behavior.
- Reinforcing bad behavior.
- Failure to train appropriate behavior.
- Failure to remediate after a warning incident.
- Failure to recognize reasonable flags and warnings.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF A BITE?



DON'T MISTAKE PURPOSE FOR “INTENT”

- There is a difference between the human idea of “intent” and a dog’s perception of the efficacy of action.
- What we think of as “intent” carries emotional or moral value.
 - Dogs do have cognitive processes, but imparting moral value to a dog’s action is unfair to the dog.
 - Instead go back to the A-B-Cs to look for purpose.

All behaviors, including bites, have a purpose that makes sense to the organism acting.

All behavior, including biting, occurs on a spectrum.

DETAILED IMMEDIATE ACTIONS FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

- Give immediate victim assistance.
- If victim is alive *try* and take a photo or two to document the bite before treatment starts-but do not risk the victim for the photos.
- If the victim is obviously dead: **don't mess with them.**
- This is a homicide scene, so the less alteration you do the better.

STEP 2: SCENE DETAILS

- Secure the scene from contamination.
 - Exclude unnecessary personnel.
- Identify and secure potential witnesses.
 - Separate them from each other and from the immediate scene.
- Exclude media from filming.
 - Until after all processing and removal is complete.

SECURE THE SCENE

- Example of a well-done crime scene.



SECURING ANIMALS

- Observe and document animal(s)' demeanor and behavior.
 - Video the animal's behavior (even using your cell phone) prior to capture to document what was really happening when you got there.
 - TAKE NOTES.
- Physically capture/secure the animal(s) and separate.
- The first step is **containment**.
 - Use what you have: garden, fenced yard, garage, bedroom, bathroom.
 - SLOW DOWN THE SITUATION.
 - Our aim is to capture the animal for analysis, not to execute it on scene.

If animal is alive then transport and secure properly at Animal Control facility.

REMEMBER: THE DOG IS EVIDENCE UNTIL YOUR INVESTIGATION IS OVER.

CAPTURE

- Have a plan!
- Have backup!
- Use the right tools.



- Leash
- Catch poles/Graspers
- Traps
- Chemical capture
- Nets



- To successfully capture, remember to try and keep the encounter as low key as possible.

TOOLS-CAUTIONS

- A calm dog can often be leashed.
 - Slow and calm does it.
- On a control pole most dogs will freak out.
 - CAUTION: nooses may well obstruct breathing.
 - Dog will then fight harder.
 - Dog may bite self/pole in fear
- Chemical capture.
 - Takes time.
 - Plan for track.
- Traps.
- Nets.
 - Dog gets tangled-then dog is afraid and panicked.
 - To successfully capture, remember to try and keep the encounter as low key as possible.



CAPTURE- OR NOT

- TASERs are not proving to be a good capture tool.
- Tasers are more effective as an *attack interruption* than for capture. Most dogs try to flee as soon as possible. This may make capture more difficult



FIREARMS

- A FIREARM SHOULD BE YOUR LAST RESORT.
 - Dogs are a small target and hard to hit-even for sharpshooters-aim for body mass center.
 - A dog, just like a person, may not go down immediately.
 - Watch your field of fire, including ricochet and pass thru backstops-you are probably shooting downward, and deflection of a missed or pass through shot is almost assured.

EVIDENCE

- What is it?
 - Evidence is anything that helps you discover *WHAT HAPPENED*
- How do you get it?
 - Follow legal processes
- Why does it matter-the dog did it!
 - *OR DID THEY???*

EVIDENCE

- PHOTOGRAPH EVERYTHING
 - High resolution
 - Include video if you can (**AUDIO IS ALWAYS ON!**)
 - Crime scene and capture/observations
 - Stills and video should proceed according to a plan.
 - Location (overall)
 - Then areas (rooms, front/rear/sides, etc.)
 - Then specific items
 - Include scales for comparison

EVIDENCE

- ALSO LOOK FOR:
 - Marks of a struggle
 - Bowls, bedding
 - Fenced? Secure?
 - Tools or weapons used to interrupt attack.
 - Same used post attack-impact, containment, capture.

SPECIFIC ITEMS:

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------|--------|
| • Hair | Feces | Tissue |
| • Vomit sample | Food sample | Water |
| • Toys (human or dog)
Chains/tethers | Collars (PRESERVE) | |
| • Blood swabs | Stains/spatter photos | |
| • Bits of clothing | | |
| • Meds or drugs | | |



BLOOD IS EASY ON A LIGHT DOG..



NO SO MUCH ON A BRINDLE DOG

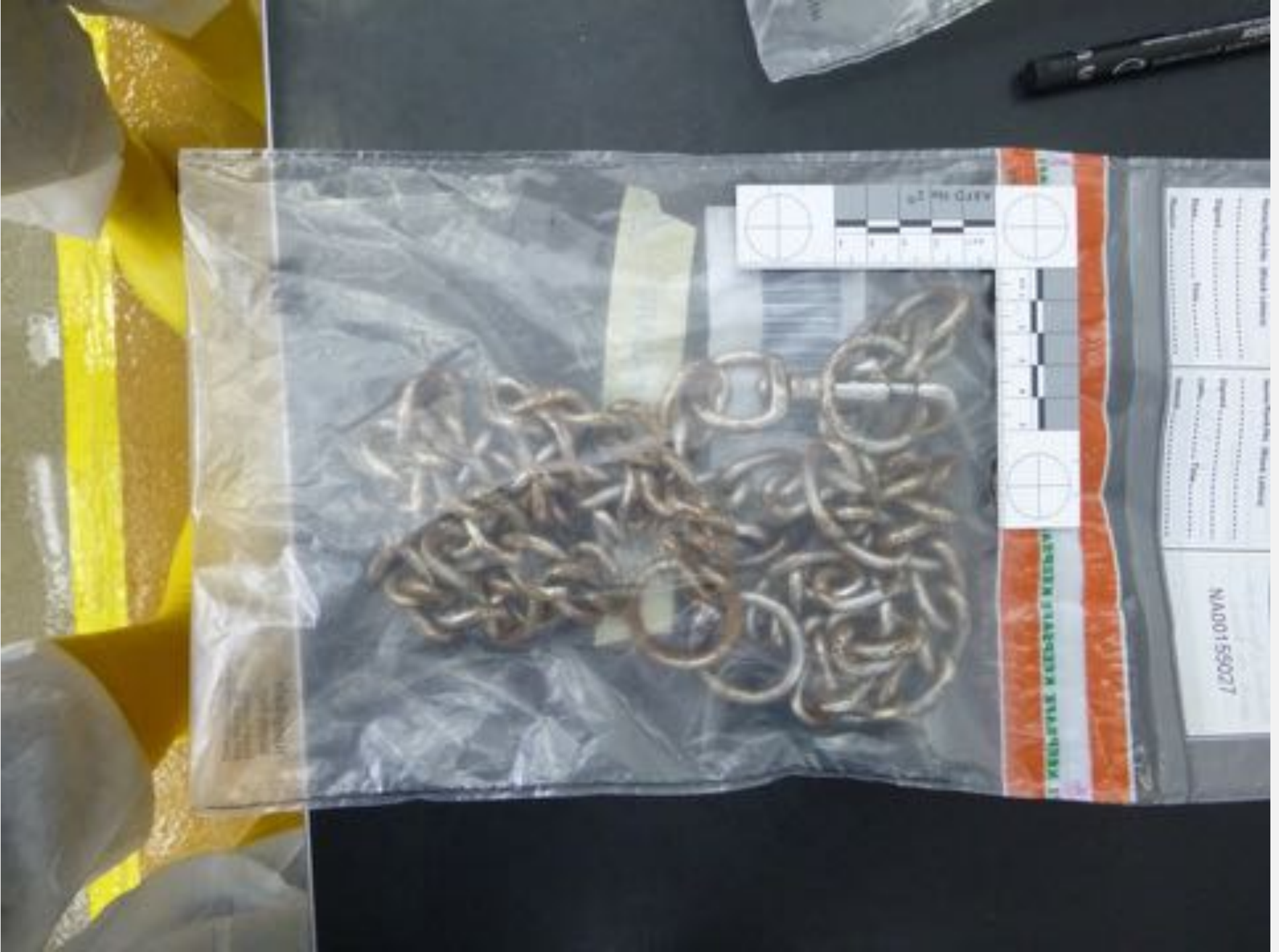




SECURING THE CHAIN OF EVIDENCE

Microchip each dog and tag samples with the microchip number.

- If at all possible, even if the owners request or permit euthanasia, keep the animals alive for evaluation by a behavior expert.



EVIDENCE COLLECTION LIVE DOG(S)

- Animal(s) may have to be sedated to safely handle-if so document type and dosage of sedative.
- PHOTOS!
- Safely examine animal for visible signs of blood or fluids on fur. If any is seen, use swabs to collect or cut and collect fur in the stained areas. If a dark or brindle dog, use clean sterile gauze, dampened with saline, to swab for blood.
- Safely collect DNA swabs of upper and lower jaw area of each animal.
- Veterinarians should evacuate the stomach of each animal and save the contents separately for testing for human tissue or DNA.
- Blood samples from each dog should be collected and preserved for testing.
- Detailed photos, measurements, and molds of jaws and dentition

EVIDENCE COLLECTION-DEAD DOG(S)

- If the animal is deceased at the scene, the same samples must be collected.
- Microchip for positive identification
- Use a clean body bag to transport the animal to avoid contamination.
 - Once samples are collected from the animal they must be securely identified. If the animal is deceased at the scene and rabies testing is needed, have appropriate lab process the animal-but ask that they return the head and jaw if possible.

NOTE: If Law Enforcement personnel are forced to destroy the animal at the scene for safety reasons, please instruct them to shoot for center of body mass, not a head shot. Heads are a small, moving target, well armored, and damage to the brain and jaw of the dog may limit information needed for full investigation.

HUMAN VICTIMS

- Treat the scene like any homicide.
- Look for indications of additional animal involvement, such as blood stains going up to a fence, etc.
- A person may be killed in one place and then dragged, sometimes by an animal that did not participate in the actual death.

HUMAN VICTIMS

- Ask Medical personnel to take swab samples from within the wounds.
- Have detailed photos, including reference measurements, taken of all bite wounds.
- Ask the Medical Examiner to identify, as far as possible, the bite(s) that are the proximate cause of death.
- Document any scratches, dirt marks, or other non-fatal wounds to determine whether there are indicative of flight, defense, etc.



Use presumptive tests before submitting to lab for analysis.

OTHER

- Ask the Medical Examiner to take full body X-rays before they begin dissection.



OVERALL PHOTOS-FRONT, BACK, SIDES, TOP,
BOTTOM



BLOOD STAINS AND AREAS SWABBED



PAWS AND NAILS



NECROPSY

- Verify microchip
- Overall exam
- Document visible injuries
 - Bruises, punctures, abrasions, collar marks
- Note and scrape nails
- Other exterior marks such as scars/healed wounds, callouses, worn fur, missing coat.
- Check for ID tattoo
- Full body X-rays before dissection

NECROPSY

- Verify microchip
- Overall exam
- Document visible injuries
 - Bruises, punctures, abrasions, collar marks
- Note and scrape nails
- Other exterior marks such as scars/healed wounds, callouses, worn fur, missing coat.
- Check for ID tattoo
- Full body X-rays before dissection

NECROPSY 2 - DISSECTION

- Skin or muscle bruising
- Eyes (petechial hemorrhaging)
- Stomach contents recovered and preserved
 - Intestine contents same
- Trachea and lung condition
- Organ conditions
- Injuries, new or healed
- Tissue samples for histo
- Skeletal notes
- Marrow analysis if nutrition a concern
- Marks/burns from cattle prod/stun gun/CEW

AFTER NECROPSY

- De-flesh and preserve skull and jaw for molds or analysis.



BITE MARK EVIDENCE

Exclusionary, not identifying

- Direction and force establish pattern of attack
- Individual characteristics (broken teeth, misalignment, etc)

DISTINCTIVE TEETH



BITE MARKS-EXCLUSIONARY EVIDENCE



DETAILS OF DENTITION



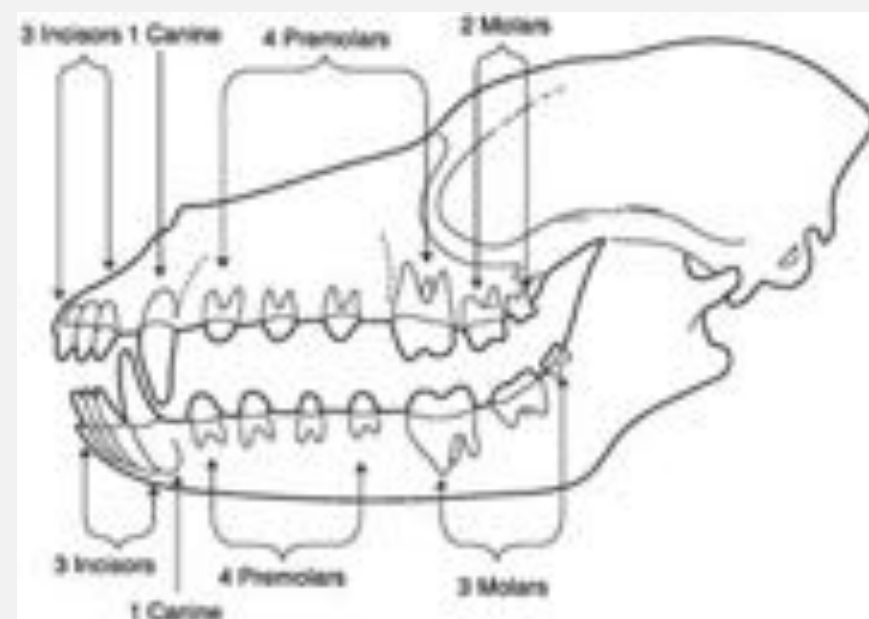
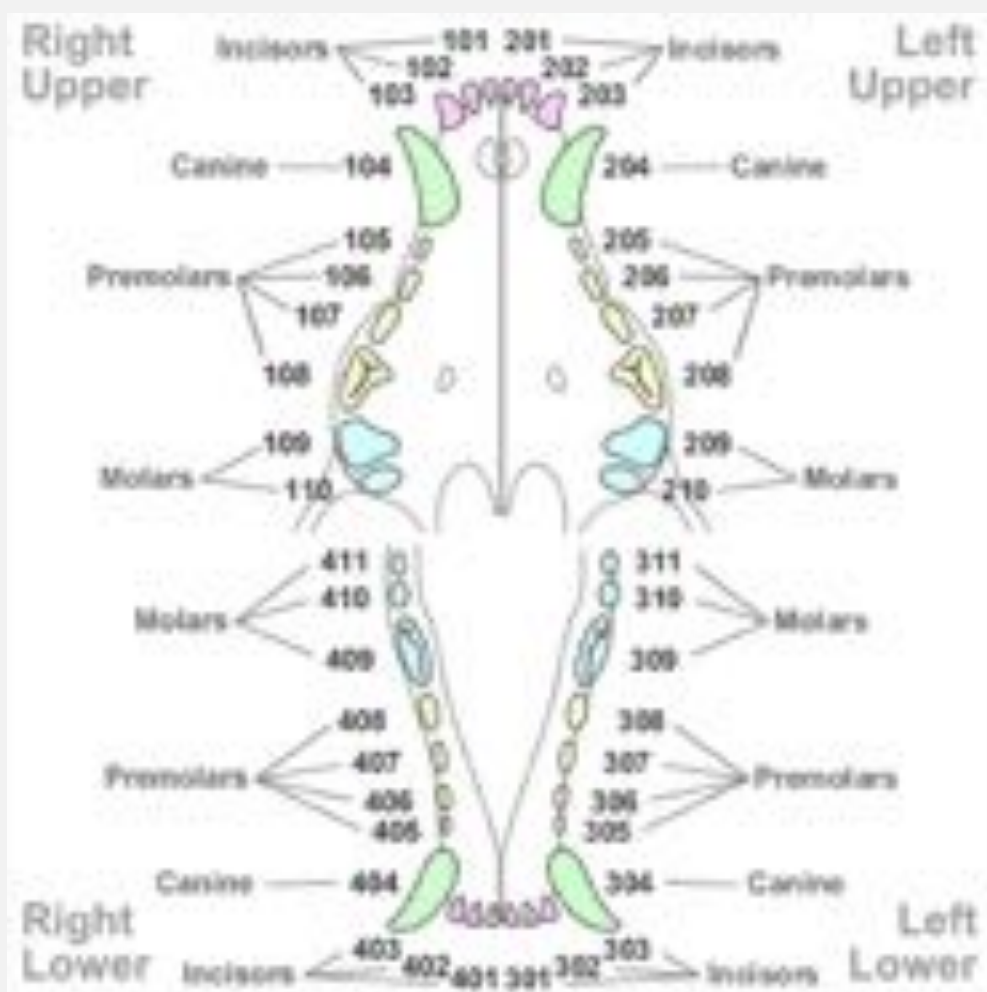




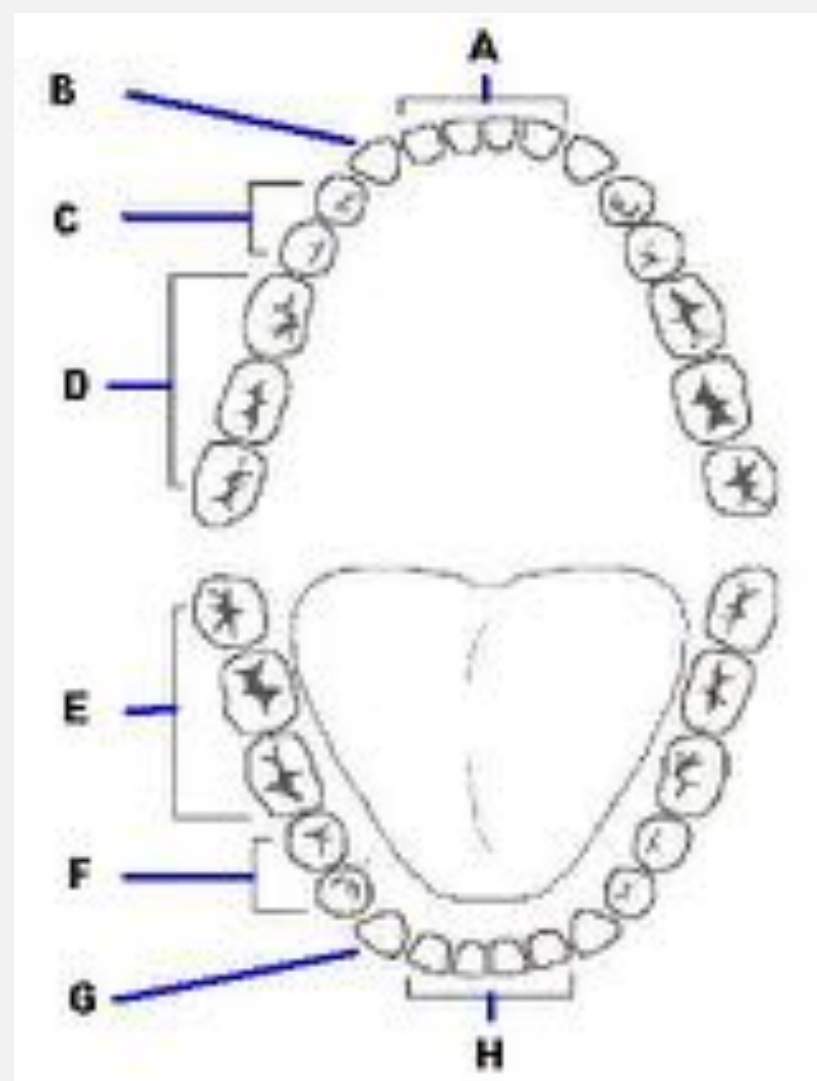


ADDITIONAL DETAILS

- Number of teeth
- Engagement of canines
- Fore and aft engagement of teeth
 - Dogs engage progressively
 - If human it may be inverted (rear deeper) due to differences in jaws
- Predator vs domestic dog
 - Triangular margins
 - Number of teeth
 - Size/width of jaws
 - Small scavenger damage vs dog bites may be confused.







OTHER POSSIBLE CONTRIBUTING CAUSES TO AN APPARENT DEATH BY DOGS

- Heart attack
- Illness
- Medications (contribute such as blood thinners)
- Illegal drugs
- Seizures
- Infection

- **SC man gets 5 years in fatal dog attack**

The Associated Press January 30, 2009

DILLON, S.C. -- A South Carolina man whose dogs killed a 10-year-old boy has been found guilty in the boy's death and sentenced to five years in prison.

A Dillon County jury on Friday found Bentley Collins guilty of one count of involuntary manslaughter and three counts of keeping unconfined dangerous animals.

The judge sentenced Collins to give years in prison and ordered him not to own any more dogs.

The body of John Matthew Davis was found in Collins' yard in November 2006 after the boy failed to make it back to his house less than a mile away.

Prosecutors said the dogs attacked the boy because they were hungry.

Collins apologized to the boy's family just before his sentencing.

Behavioral investigation



HUMAN FACTORS that contribute to dog bites

- Failure to inhibit bad behavior.
- Reinforcing bad behavior.
- Failure to train appropriate behavior.
- Failure to remediate after a warning incident.
- Failure to recognize reasonable flags and warnings.

History-foundation

- Source of dog
 - *Type of source*
- Commercial/high volume
- Dangers of aggression (study)
 - *Environment*
- Home
- Commercial
 - *Upbringing*
 - *Socialization*
- WARNINGS:
 - *Lack of socialization/early removal*
 - *Deprivation of proper interaction*
- Social skills, communication, inhibition/control

History-immediate past

- Time in current home
- Rehoming history
 - *Why rehomed?*
- May exacerbate territorial response
- Prior known/reported incidents

History-current

- Home conditions
- Nutrition
- Illness/injury/trauma
 - *Veterinary history*
- ARE THE DOG'S NEEDS BEING MET?
- Bred/intact/sterilized?
- Contact with humans/other animals

More current history

- Socialization and experience
- Training?
 - *By whom?*
 - *Methods*
 - *Force and aversive training effects: may set dog up for aggressive behavior.*
 - *May have received “protection” training that reinforced human focused aggression.*
 - *Training may not have been deliberate.*

Dissect the incident

■ What happened immediately before the incident? Immediate triggers?

- *1 minute*
- *30 seconds*
- *10 seconds*
- *1 second*

Level of arousal

Observed actions with the dog and each other

Focus of activity

Who was present

- Last 30 minutes
- At the time of the incident
- Why were they there?
- What were they doing?
- Were they known to the dog? The humans?
- How were they interacting with the dog?
- Activity level
- Dog(s)
- Humans

Dogs actions

- Level of arousal
- Observed actions
- Focus of activity

humans actions

Activity

Interaction with the dog and each other

Focus of activity

Identification of suspect dog

- Who identified the dog?
 - *Captured at scene?*
 - *Known to victim or witness?*
 - *How distinctive?*
- How fast did the incident occur?
- Was there more than one dog?

Victim history

- Age, race, sex, etc.
- Physical health-any issues?
- Mental/emotional state
- Activity immediately prior to attack
- Possession of toys/food at time of attack
- Relationship with dog (similarity to any others dog may have had bad relationship with)
- Drugs/medication victim may have been taking

Witness interviews

- Reliable?
 - *Talk to them separately.*
 - *Stay concrete.*
 - *Find out what they **actually saw**.*
 - *Could they see what they claim.*
- Credible?
 - *Agenda? Experience? Consistent with evidence?*

Owner interview

- Their perception of the incident will be colored by:
 - *Attachment (denial)*
 - *Accustomed behavior*
 - *Relationship with bite victim*
 - *Liability*
- Remember rights and attorney if possible prosecution.

Investigative worksheet

- Use a standard set of questions.
- Have a plan for every case.

■ Dog bite investigative worksheet

Agency

Case number

Bite level classification

Date

Time

Location of attack.

Number of dogs involved in the attack

Nature of location (inside, outside, etc.)

Lighting.

Weather at the time of the attack.

Dog name

Breed

Sex

Age

Color, markings

Height

Weight

Owner name, address

Owner Race

Sex

Disposition of dog

(Euthanized? Date, time, by whom. Euthanasia chemical used. Authorization of euthanization?)

(Returned to owners? Date, time, by whom, authorization)

(Destroyed at scene? By whom? Circumstances? Body retained for analysis?)

Source of dog-name/address

Type of source (breeder, pet store, etc.)

Number of previous homes

Parents known? Y/N

Parents owners-full info

Parents available for exam/interview? Y/N

Parents source-name/address

Parents source type

Siblings known? Y/N

Sibling owners name/address of each

Siblings available for exam/interview? Y/N

Reproductive status of dog

Ever bred? Y/N

If female, is dog in estrus/recently been in/expected to be in soon? Y/N

Identity/location of progeny

Illness/injury? Y/N

Describe if yes.

Vaccine history

Is dog currently on any medication? Y/N

If yes describe

Hearing?

Eyesight?

Hip condition?

Blood tests;

Samples taken-Date:

Time:

By whom?

Fresh or post mortem?

Chem/CBC

Thyroid

Steroids

Testosterone

Amphetamines/stimulants

Hormones

Body condition/musculoskeletal

Parasites

Training/socialization

Has dog had training? Y/N

By whom, when, where, type.

Any earned titles? Y/N

If yes list:

Used as:

Guard dog Y/N

Military dog Y/N

Police dog Y/N

Schutzhund Y/N

Has dog ever been fought? Y/N

Living conditions-

(Type of neighborhood-rural, suburbs, urban. Type of residence-apartment, town home/patio home/duplex, single family home, property over 1 ac, other. Containment: Fence, chain, tether, pen, indoor, none. Primarily kept indoors or outdoors. Sleeping arrangements)

Diet

Fed by

Where, how often

Who disciplines dog

Usual method

Who has most frequent interaction with dog

Does dog have regular contact with other dogs? Y/N

Type, duration, frequency, location

Has dog shown aggression toward other dogs/animals? Describe.

Bite incident victim information

Name

Address

Sex

Race

Height

Weight

If female, was victim menstruating at the time of the attack. Y/N

Relationship of victim to owner:

Relationship to dog.

Was victim disabled or ill? Y/N

Under treatment for mental disability? Y/N

Any unusual physical attributes? Y/N Describe.

Does victim have a history of seizures?

Does victim have a history of heart disease?

Victim dress at the time of the attack?

Victim's actions immediately before the attack.

Was victim known to the dog? Y/N

Did victim have contact with the dog prior to this incident? Y/N

Prior aggressive contact? Y/N

CASE STUDY: TEXAS

Victim

- WM 41 years old
- 5' 08", 150 lbs
- IV drug user
- Wanted felon at time of attack
- Previously unknown to dog or owner

Owner

- “Steve”
- WM 22 yrs old
- Unemployed
- Drug user
- Intellectually challenged

Witness

- “Kim”
- WF 19 yrs old
- Known by owner
- Known by dog

Actions prior to attack

- All three humans using drugs
- Dog initially inside
- Brought out front by owner
- Breaks free of owner, greets female
- Victim action towards dog
- Dog targets victim

Response

- Witness flees
- Owner tries to pull dog off-has to physically carry dog inside
- EMS/Police-
 - *Victim DOA*
 - *AC and SO capture dog inside after TASER*
- Dog fearful and retreating

Interviews

- Owner low functioning
- Emotionally dependant on family/friends
- Bonded closely with dog-even shared his own food and drugs
- Dependant relationship with dog
 - *Dog was the responsible party in the relationship*

Interviews 2

- Dog was frequently exposed to crowd of people
- Dog typically greeted people by jumping up and grasping, and then became very social
- People tolerated jumping up and grasping

Attack

- Dog drove victim to the ground
- Owner attempted to pull dog off by grabbing dog by testicles
- Witness fled
- Dog repeatedly reengaged, **but did not redirect**
- Dog was finally physically picked up by owner and carried into house

Hands-on evaluation

- Dog would not challenge
- Dog retreated in kennel
- Dog urinated when approached
- Handled easily

Interaction

- Appeasement gestures
- Tried to disengage
- Defecated when pushed
- Only response was a slight lip lift

Overall evaluation

- Dependent relationship
- Dog perceived threat
- Dog responded;
 - *Low trigger*
 - *Over the top response*
 - *No 'off' switch*
 - *Consistent with potential genetics*

Negotiation

“Dealing with
Dangerous Dogs:
Negotiation and Push-
Pull

WARNING! DISCLAIMER!

- This is just MY way of doing this.
- This is not necessarily the BEST way
- This is not the ONLY way
- Mileage may vary.
- This should not be tried at home.
- Stunts are done by a professional driver named Stig on a closed course.
- Etc.
- Etc.



NEVER RELAX TOO SOON



WEAR YOUR PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT!





- Turid Rugaas



NEGOTIATION IS NOT

- Dominance based
- Fear based
- Force based

NEGOTIATION IS...

- Based on clear communication.
- Based on trust.
- Based on mutual respect.
- Involves give and take.

Memphis negotiation



Give and take



Negotiation/push-pull

Approach-Neutral

Pull away positive contact if inappropriate response

PRESENT positive reinforcement for positive response

SOLICIT contact

ESTABLISH connection

Review negotiation/push-pull

Approach-Neutral

Pull away positive contact if inappropriate response

PRESENT positive reinforcement for positive response

SOLICIT contact

ESTABLISH connection

Review 2

PUSH with brief challenges

PULL immediately to deescalate

SEND calming signals

REINFORCE positive give and take

ESTABLISH trust.

TAKEAWAYS

- Dogs...bite.
- Aggression is a *behavior*, not a disease-or, somehow, “nature”.
- Fatal dog attacks are HOMICIDES.They need to be INVESTIGATED as such.
- Investigation can reveal the HUMAN factors that intersected to cause the fatality.
 - There may be ACTIVE factors or PASSIVE factors. Either way, we can HOLD A HUMAN RESPONSIBLE.
- EVIDENCE IS THE KEY TO FINDING THIS OUT, PHYSICAL OR BEHAVIORAL.

UNABASHED SELF PROMOTION

Available
for pre-
order on
Amazon !



AND FOR HELP:

- Jim Crosby
- canineaggression@gmail.com
- dogconsulting.org
- <http://canineaggression.blogspot.com>
- +1-904-476-7655