

Dog Attack Deaths and Maimings, U.S. & Canada September 1982 to January 1, 2008

By Merritt Clifton
Editor, ANIMAL PEOPLE

Reports are logged as received, and the current log is printed out as requested.

Compiled by the editor of ANIMAL PEOPLE from press accounts since 1982, this table covers only attacks by dogs of clearly identified breed type or ancestry, as designated by animal control officers or others with evident expertise, who have been kept as pets.

Due to the exclusion of dogs whose breed type may be uncertain, this is by no means a complete list of fatal and otherwise serious dog attacks.

Attacks by police dogs, guard dogs, and dogs trained specifically to fight are also excluded. "Attacks doing bodily harm" includes all fatalities, maimings, and other injuries requiring extensive hospital treatment. "Maimings" includes permanent disfigurement or loss of a limb. Where there is an asterisk (*), please see footnotes. If there are more "attacks" than "victims," it means that there were multiple dogs involved in some attacks. If the numbers of "victims" does not equal the numbers of "deaths" and "maimings," it means that some of the victims -- in attacks in which some people were killed or maimed -- were not killed or maimed.

Over the duration of the data collection, the severity of the logged attacks appears to be at approximately the 1-bite-in-10,000 level.

There is a persistent allegation by pit bull terrier advocates that pit bulls are over-represented because of misidentifications or because "pit bull" is, according to them, a generic term covering several similar types of dog. However, the frequency of pit bull attacks among these worst-in-10,000 cases is so disproportionate that even if half of the attacks in the pit bull category were misattributed, or even if the pit bull category was split three ways, attacks by pit bulls and their closest relatives would still outnumber attacks by any other breed.

| Breed | Attacks doing | | | | | Notes |
|----------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|-------|--------|----------|-------|
| | bodily harm | Child | Adult | Deaths | Maimings | |
| | [dogs X victims] | [-----Individuals-----] | | | | |
| Akita | 48 | 32 | 14 | 1 | 39 | |
| Akita mix (inspecific) | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | |
| Akita/Chow mix | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | |
| Akita/Lab mix | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | |
| Akita/terrier mix | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | |
| Airedale/boxer | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | # |
| Airedale | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | |
| American bulldog (not pit) | 7 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | # |
| Australian blue heeler | 8 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 3 | |
| Australian cattle dog | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | |
| Australian shepherd | 7 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 2 | |
| Australian shepherd mix | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | # |
| Basset/GSD mix | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | |
| Basset/beagle mix | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | |
| Beagle | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | # |
| Belgian shepherd | 5 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 2 | |
| Blue heeler | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | |
| Border collie | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | # |
| Boxer | 35 | 9 | 13 | 2 | 16 | # |
| Boxer mix | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | |
| Briard | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | |
| Brittany spaniel | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | |
| Bulldog (American) | 4 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 2 | |
| Bulldog (English) | 18 | 10 | 3 | 1 | 11 | |

| | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| Bull mastiff (Presa Canario) | 39 | 11 | 18 | 7 | 20 | |
| Bull mastiff/German shepherd | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | |
| Buff mastiff/Rottweiler | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | |
| Bull mastiff/Boxer | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | |
| Bull terrier (not pit) | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | |
| Cane Corso | 5 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 4 | |
| Catahoula | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | |
| Catahoula/pit bull mix | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | |
| Chihuahua | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | # |
| Chow | 51 | 34 | 14 | 6 | 34 | |
| Chow/German shepherd | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | |
| Chow/husky mix | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | |
| Chow/Labrador mix | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 3 | |
| Chox mix (other) | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | |
| Cocker spaniel | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | |
| Collie | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | |
| Collie/retriever mix | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | |
| Coonhound | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Dalmatian | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | |
| Dalmatian/Akita mix | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | |
| Dauschund | 5 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 5 | # |
| Doberman | 12 | 8 | 4 | 4 | 7 | # |
| Dogo Argentino | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | |
| Doge de Bordeaux | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | |
| East Highland terrier | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | # |
| Fila Brasileiro | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | |
| German shepherd | 71 | 45 | 20 | 9 | 43 | |
| German shepherd mix | 34 | 23 | 8 | 7 | 21 | # |
| German shepherd/husky mix | 4 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | |
| German shepherd/Lab mix | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | |
| Golden retriever | 9 | 7 | 2 | 2 | 6 | # |
| Golden retriever mix | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | # |
| Great Dane | 25 | 5 | 5 | 2 | 10 | |
| Great Pyranees | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | |
| Greyhound | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | |
| Husky | 45 | 28 | 4 | 17 | 9 | |
| Husky/Malamute mix | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | |
| Husky/Labrador mix | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | |
| Jack Russell terrier | 3 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 0 | # |
| Labrador | 31 | 21 | 11 | 3 | 24 | # |
| Labrador mix | 11 | 9 | 2 | 0 | 10 | # |
| Labrador/boxer mix | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | |
| Lab-Doberman | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | |
| Lab-St. Bernard | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | |
| Malamute | 8 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 3 | |
| Maremma | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | |
| Mastiff | 18 | 12 | 4 | 4 | 11 | |
| Norwegian elkhound | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | # |
| Old English sheep dog | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | # |
| Pit bull terrier | 1312 | 564 | 456 | 131 | 699 | # |
| Pit bull boxer mix | 9 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 6 | |
| Pit bull/chow mix | 5 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 3 | |
| Pit bull/Doberman/GSD/Lab | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | |
| Pit bull/GSD mix | 4 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 3 | |
| Pit bull/Lab mix | 15 | 10 | 4 | 3 | 8 | # |
| Pit bull/Rott. mix | 39 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 8 | |
| Pit bull/Sheltie mix | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | |

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|------|------|-----|-----|------|---|
| Pit bull/Weimaraner mix | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | |
| Pit mix unknown | 4 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 3 | |
| Pointer mix | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | # |
| Pomeranian | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | |
| Poodle | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | # |
| Poodle/terrier | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | |
| Pug | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | |
| Pug/Rottweiler mix | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | |
| Queensland heeler | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | |
| Rottweiler | 429 | 245 | 113 | 63 | 234 | # |
| Rottweiler/chow mix | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | |
| Rottweiler/GSD mix | 14 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 10 | |
| Rottweiler/Labrador | 7 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 7 | |
| Russian terrier | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | |
| Saint Bernard | 6 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1 | |
| Sharpei | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 | |
| Sharpei/Rottweiler | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | |
| Sharpei/unknown mix | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | |
| Sharpei/Labrador | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | |
| Springer spaniel | 3 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | |
| Terrier mix (not pit bull) | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | |
| Tosa | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | |
| Weimaraner | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | |
| Wheaten terrier | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | |
| Wolf hybrid | 80 | 66 | 4 | 19 | 44 | # |
| <hr/> | | | | | | |
| Total: | 2524 | 1262 | 752 | 314 | 1369 | |

Pit bulls, Rottweilers, Presa Canarios, and their mixes:

| | | | | |
|------|-----|-----|-----|------|
| 1894 | 865 | 613 | 210 | 1012 |
| 75% | 69% | 81% | 67% | 74% |

Pit, Rott, Wolf hybrid:

| | | | | |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1816 | 874 | 577 | 215 | 980 |
| 77% | 73% | 83% | 70% | 77% |

Notes:

Airedale/boxer: The only listed attack was by 10 dogs at once.

American bulldog: Described as resembling an "English bulldog on stilts" by Livingston County (Michigan) animal control director Anne Burns, the five dogs involved in two fatal attacks on September 13, 2007 did not appear to match either the usual description of a pit bull terrier or the AKC-defined "American bull dog."

Australian shepherd mix: Involved with golden retriever mix in July 26, 2008 fatal attack on Lorraine May, 74, of Titusville, Florida.

Beagle: The fatality was a strangulation caused by tugging on a leash which was around a child's neck.

Border collie: Involved in 4-dog attack. The other dogs were two American bull dogs and a mastiff.

Boxer: Fatal attack on 3-week-old infant also involved a Rottweiler.

Dauschund: Julia Beck, 87, of Fort Wayne, died 5/15/05, two weeks after attack by dauschund & Lab at home she shared with Michael T. Kitchen, 48, and Linda A. Kitchen, 57. Linda Floyd, 56, a diabetic, lost toe to dauschund who gnawed it off in her sleep 6/30/08.

Chihuahua: Dog on retractable leash leaped up and bit the lip of a six-year-old who was riding past on a bicycle. The bicycle's momentum and restraint on the dog apparently increased the severity of the injury (8-12-08, Springfield Township, Indiana.)

Doberman: One miniature pinscher apparently joined two pit bull terriers in attacking a child.

East Highland terrier: Victim, age 75, died of heart attack.

German shepherd mix: One fatality victim, age 83, was apparently killed by an overly rowdy greeting. The victim was knocked down and suffered multiple broken bones, but was not bitten. The dog had bitten a person

on a previous occasion. In that case, the skin was not broken. Another 83-year-old victim was killed by either a German shepherd/Labrador mix or a pit bull terrier, but it was not clear whether both dogs attacked her, or just one of them. An 18-day-old child was killed in an attack also involving a pit bull terrier/golden Lab mix.

Golden retriever: One dog responsible for an attack was rabid. Another accidentally strangled Kaitlyn Hassard, 6, of Manorville, Long Island, on 1/24/06, by tugging at her scarf.

Golden retriever mix: Involved with Australian shepherd mix in July 26, 2008 fatal attack on Lorraine May, 74, of Titusville, Florida.

Jack Russell terrier: Patricia Schneider, 50, of Discovery Bay, Calif., whose spleen had been removed, died in 2/98 of infection, 3 days after receiving infected bite on lip at home of Diane Gardner and Elaine Goodney.

Labrador: Adult victim was attacked in her home by as many as 23 dogs owned by daughter. The Lab who severely mauled Jasmine Charboneau, 2, on 7/29/04 in Devils Lake, ND, proved to be rabid.

Labrador mix: Reports varied as to whether one case was severe enough to include.

Mastiff: One mastiff attack also involved an attacking pit bull terrier.

Old English sheep dog: Gertrude Monroe, 87, mother of Kathryn Schwarb of Birmingham, Michigan, on December 19, 1984 tripped over King Boots, 8, an award-winning show dog belonging to Schwarb, and was severely bitten. Whether Monroe died of the bites, the fall, or a heart attack or stroke preceding the fall was not clearly established. King Boots was defanged and castrated, by judicial order, as this was the second biting incident involving him.

Pit bull terrier: One case involved a dog who assisted in a killing carried out by a human. Another case was a 6-year-old girl who was caught and strangled by a pit bull's chain. An 83-year-old victim was killed by either a German shepherd/Labrador mix or a pit bull terrier, but it was not clear whether both dogs attacked her, or just one of them. One case involved a woman who was apparently killed by two pit bulls and one Rottweiler. Rashawn Thompson, 18, was mauled on 4/25/07 by 13 dogs, including one pit bull and 12 of unidentifiable mix. As many as 27 pit bull puppies in August 2008 used terminal cancer patient Michael Warner, 55, "as a food source," according to Pierce County sheriff's spokesman Ed Troyer. Warner was hospitalized in critical condition.

Pit bull/golden Lab mix: One child was killed in an attack also involving a German shepherd mix.

Pointer mix: Was involved in attack on Iran Menses, 66, of Los Angeles, on 5/28/00, along with two pit bull terriers, but apparently did not inflict any of Menses' injuries.

Poodle: Very strange case involved prescription drug use possibly affecting dog as well as victim.

Rottweiler: Jonathon Chandler, 6 months, of Lancaster, Ohio, was reportedly crushed in bed by the family Rottweiler. Four other children, ages 2-11, were removed from home of Shelly Fisher; case was investigated as possible negligent homicide. Another case involved a woman who was apparently killed by two pit bulls and one Rottweiler. Joe Mortensen, 22, of Dix Hills, N.Y., was mauled by two Rottweilers belonging to James Mazzone, 44, in June 2007, when the Rottweilers allegedly attacked his pit bull mix.

Wolf hybrid: One adult victim was a small woman who was defending two children. The other was a small woman, 61, who was apparently defending her dog. In that instance, the wolf hybrid was identified as being a wolf hybrid/German shepherd cross, with the German shepherd configuration dominant. Some experts are skeptical that the animal had any wolf ancestry at all.

Contact Info:

Merritt Clifton
Editor, ANIMAL PEOPLE
P.O. Box 960
Clinton, WA 98236

Telephone: 360-579-2505
Fax: 360-579-2575
E-mail: anmlpepl@whidbey.com
Web: www.animalpeoplenews.org

[ANIMAL PEOPLE is the leading independent newspaper providing original investigative coverage of animal protection worldwide, founded in 1992. Our readership of 30,000-plus includes the decision-makers at more than 10,000 animal protection organizations. We have no alignment or affiliation with any other entity. \$24/year; for free sample, send address.]