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May 24, 2013, 07:22:56 PM

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Author

Topic: Today I learned what name the victorians had for pitbulls (Read 3856 times)

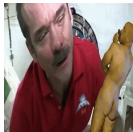
**E-Kul**

Getbig V



Gender:

Posts: 7696



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**Re: Today I learned what name the victorians had for pitbulls**

« **Reply #150 on:** April 16, 2013, 10:30:22 PM »

**Quote from: illwill on April 16, 2013, 08:32:20 PM**

E-kul, this study was done by non-animal behaviorists. Hardly "highly qualified".

Let me pull an E-kul move here and post a wall of text and then sit back and await his meltdown.

Here is the rebuttal letter to the study you have such a hard on for. Sent to the editor of the peer reviewed journal you mention above:

Imprudent use of Unreliable Dog Bite Tabulations and Unpublished Sources

To the Editor:

*"That will be the argument that a lot of people have, that it's not the dog. It's the owner. But I think you really have to throw the emotion out. Yeah, it's emotional. But throw it away and let's look at our data."*

Dr John Bini, quoted in the Houston Chronicle, "Doctors Bare Grim Pit Bull Data," May 8, 2011

When we write on a subject, emotional or otherwise, a decent respect for all concerned obligates us to make careful and judicious use of sources, and, as we would in any scientific endeavor, to be conservative in our pronouncements.

This has been my aim during the 20 years that I have researched and written about dog bite related fatalities. I have published 2 books on the subject: Fatal Dog Attacks: The Stories Behind the Statistics<sup>1</sup> and The Pit Bull Placebo: The Media, Myths and Politics of Canine Aggression. (2)

On the basis of my experience with this issue, I am dismayed by the erroneous data, the use of questionable sources, and the lack of fact checking that characterizes Dr Bini's article. (3)

*Case Presentation.* In the first line, Dr Bini writes, "An 11-month-old boy arrived at our level 1 trauma center after being mauled by 2 pit bulls."

There is no documented evidence from any authority that either dog involved in this incident were "pit bulls." To determine whether the breed attributed to these dogs could be visually substantiated by a recognized expert, I submitted photographs of both dogs to Dr Amy Marder, VMD, CAAB.\* Dr Marder reported the breed(s) of dog could not be reasonably determined by visual identification.

*Introduction.* "Pit bull" is not a recognized breed of dog. Dr Bini seems not to have appreciated that he and one of the sources for his statistical characterizations do not include the same breeds of dogs under the term "pit bull." Dr Bini et al cite the 1982 Pediatrics study "*Traumatic deaths from dog attacks in the United States*" by L. E. Pinckney and L. A. Kennedy, when they write, "*Between 1966 and 1980 . . . although 16 deaths were attributable to German Shepherd Dogs and only 6 were attributable to pit bulls, there were 74,723 registered German Shepherd Dogs and only 929 registered pit bulls.*"

Dr Pinckney based his "pit bull" population number and the resulting "rate" or "highest number of deaths" on the total of 1976 American Kennel Club (AKC) registrations of "Bullterriers" (n = 929). By contrast, Dr Bini defines "pit bull" as American Staffordshire Terrier, American Pit Bull Terrier, and Staffordshire Bull Terrier. He does not include Bull Terriers.

Table 2: This table evidences an extremely problematic use of sources. I shall limit this discussion to the most grievous errors:

The authors fail to inform us where the data in column 1 (Breed) and column 2 (No. of dogs) originated. The authors describe Table 2 as "Adapted from Reference 14." Reference 14 is an article in the periodical Municipal Lawyer. That article contains no tabular information of any kind or nature.

On page 795, we find the following: "*Over a recent 3-year period from January 2006 to March 30, 2009, a total of 98 dog bite fatalities involving 179 dogs occurred . . . A total of 113 pit bulls were involved in these deaths, and they accounted for 63% of the dogs involved in fatal attacks (Table 2).*"

Bini's source used media accounts for the breed descriptions found in Table 2. Queries of the CDC database and state vital statistics reveal that from January 2006 to March 30, 2009, there were 101 dog bite related fatalities, involving at least 187 dogs. My findings, based on interviews with veterinarians, animal control, and police investigators, reveal that most of these dogs, however they may have been described in the media, were dogs of unknown pedigree. Only 24 of the 187 dogs can be described as purebred dogs, either on the basis of documented pedigree or other reasonable evidence. In light of a recent published study, (4) breed identifications of mixed breed dogs of unknown origin cannot be considered reliable, whoever made the identifications.

Table 2, Column 3:

Dr Bini et al have not totaled the registered dogs that satisfy their definition of "pit bull."

The first breed listed in Table 2 is "pit bull," with a total of 2239 registrations for 2007. The authors footnote that "the term pit bull refers to dogs from the following breeds: American Pit Bull Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier, and Staffordshire Bull Terrier."

The authors also footnote that "data presented only for dog breeds for which registration information is available from the American Kennel Club (AKC)."

Even as the authors use breed club registrations as a tool to analyze the US dog population—a practice with which most animal experts disagree—Dr Bini et al seem unaware that the most popular of the 3 breeds they define as "pit bull" (ie, American Pit Bull Terrier) is not recognized by the AKC.

American Pit Bull Terriers are registered by the United Kennel Club (UKC) or the American Dog Breeders Association. The UKC is the second largest breed registry in the United States, with 250,000 registrations annually. The American Pit Bull Terrier ranked as the

second most registered breed with the UKC from 2005 through 2010.

*Selective Use of Published and Unpublished Sources.* There are approximately 25 to 30 dog bite related fatalities per year in the United States. With such a small sample, any errors made in the collection or reporting of such incidents is significant.

There are numerous errors in the source material used by Dr Bini concerning dog bite related fatalities. I list only a few. Additional case examples are available on request.

In addition to relying exclusively on news stories, Dr Bini's source chose selectively among conflicting media accounts to extract "data." Dr Bini's source counts the following as "pit bull fatalities":

1. Cause of death was not a result of dog bites: On February 9, 2007, James Chapple was attacked by 2 dogs identified by the media as "pit bulls." Mr Chapple received severe injuries but fully recovered and was discharged from the hospital. On May 17, 2007, Chapple was found dead in his bed. The Shelby County Medical Examiner (Case nos. 2007-1177) listed the cause of death as hypertensive and atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease. Dog bites were neither the cause nor a contributing factor in the death of Mr Chapple.
2. Unresolvable disagreement as to breed descriptor: On October 5, 2008, a 2 month old boy was killed by a dog. One media source reported the dog to be a "pit bull" on the basis that "neighbors believe the dog to be a pit bull." Other news stories quoted the Hawaiian Humane Society, which had custody of the dog, which officially reported that the dog "was not a pit bull." Honolulu Police Investigators list the dog as a "Sharpei mix" on their incident report. (Voith)

#### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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Letter to the Editor

Annals of Surgery r Volume 255, Number 5, May 2012

~~© 2012~~ The conclusions reported in a peer reviewed medical journal should rest on a foundation of valid data. It is imperative that authors consider all sources carefully and judiciously. Dr Bini and his colleagues would have been well advised to consult animal professionals on subject matter that was clearly outside their area of expertise.

Karen Delise, LVT  
National Canine Research Council New Market, Maryland

#### REFERENCE

1. Delise K. Fatal Dog Attacks: The Stories Behind the Statistics. Manorville, NY: Anubis; 2002.
2. Delise K. The Pit Bull Placebo: The Media, Myths and Politics of Canine Aggression. Manorville, NY: Anubis; 2007.
3. Bini JK, Cohn SM, Acosta SM, et al. for the TRISAT Clinical Trials Group. Mortality, Mauling, and Maiming by Vicious Dogs. *Ann Surg.* 2011;253:791-797.
4. Voith VL, Ingram E, Mitsouras K, et al. Comparison of adoption agency breed identification and DNA breed identification of dogs. *J Appl Anim Welf Sci.* 2009;12:253-262.

\*Dr Marder is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania's School of Veterinary Medicine, and she 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.

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Karen's argument in her rebuttal is this:

- 1) Mis-identification of breed.
- 2) Incorrect Pitbull Population
- 3) The media as a source of information is problematic

1) The first argument regarding mis-identification of the Pitbull Breed has been argued and lost in every Courtroom across America including the Supreme Court. Fancy believing that of the over 400 breeds of dog available, that identifying a breed of dog is impossible. They actually believe this. How anybody can not see through this is ridiculous. It never occurs to them that if a non-pitbull can be confused as a Pitbull, then a Pitbull could surely be identified as a non-pitbull, So for every non-Pitbull wrongly mis-identified as a Pitbull there could be a Pitbull wrongly identified as a non-Pitbull. So by using their very own argument, there could in fact be more Pitbull attacks than cited due to the many Pitbull attacks where the Pitbull was mis-identified and blamed on a non-Pitbull breed. And this is probably more than likely, because due to many localities having strict legislation regarding Pitbulls, many Pitbulls claim their Pitbull is in fact a non-pitbull. So the misidentification argument could be used to offer even more damning evidence against Pitbulls. It is more than likely Pitbulls are being misidentified as a non-pitbull breed rather than the other way around. But going by their ridiculous argument only Pitbulls can be misidentified, every other breed is easily recognised. Their logic beggars belief. They have been trying this nonsense for years. Here's what the courts had to say about their ridiculousness:

***"The Court concludes that the definitions of a Pit Bull Terrier in this Ordinance are not unconstitutionally vague. An ordinary person could easily refer to a dictionary, a dog buyer's guide or any dog book for guidance and instruction; also, the American Kennel Club and United Kennel Club have set forth standards for Staffordshire Bull Terriers and American Staffordshire Terriers to help determine whether a dog is described by any one of them. While it may be true that some definitions contain descriptions which lack "mathematical certainty," such precision and definiteness is not essential to constitutionality."***

2) Her argument regarding pitbull population is another desperate attempt, as it stands it is widely accepted that about 5% of the dog population are Pitbulls and that over 50% of the fatalities are from pitbull attack. Karen's desperate wish is that she can somehow close that extreme gap by somehow proving that there are a lot more Pitbulls not yet accounted for in population statistics. Other studies have used different methodology than relying on Kennel Club registrations, such as frequent surveys of regionally balanced samples of classified ads of dogs for sale, and they have also come up with the figure of 5%. If KAREN has a more reliable way to do a census on Pitbulls, she should simply put that forward. (Surely she doesn't think she is going to show that 50% of the fatalities is because 1 in every two dogs is a pitbull but then again, maybe she does, Karen is a true Nutter).

Karen also tries to cleverly deceive by suggesting there are unaccounted for 'Pitbulls' because the AKC doesn't acknowledge the breed. What she fails to point out, that the UKC certainly recognises the breed and that the American Pit Bull Terrier can be dual registered with both the UKC & the AKC. Whereas the

UKC registers them as an American Pit Bull Terrier the AKC registers them as an American Staffordshire Terrier. So the supposedly missing pitbulls are accounted for by including the AKC's registrations of the American Staffordshire Terrier under the umbrella of Pitbulls. This is not uncommon knowledge, and all fanciers acknowledge that the American Pit Bull Terrier & The American Staffordshire are virtually the same breed and are aware of the ability to dual register their dog.

3) Her accusation that media is a problematic source is ridiculous, where does she want the data to come from. This is a persistent allegation by pit bull terrier advocates that the use of media accounts as a data source is somehow suspect. In reality it is a very thorough source, media coverage incorporates information from *police reports, animal control reports, witness accounts, victim accounts in many instances, and hospital reports. Media coverage is, in short, multi-sourced, unlike reports from any single source.*

4) The few examples she does give are quite disturbing in themselves, the case of James Chapelle, who endured the most brutal of Pitbull attacks and died a few months later and then they challenge that he didn't die from dog attack. This poor man simply got off the bus when set upon by two large pitbulls. The attack was so savage, his left arm had to be amputated below the elbow, and doctors weren't sure if he would ever regain full use of his right arm. The victim spent the remaining few months in and out of hospital, but never fully recovered and died. They then go on to say cause of death has been misattributed as the cause of death was listed as hypertensive and atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease. Something that was exacerbated by having limbs amputated and his many other serious injuries. Having a pre existing condition does not let an attacker off the hook, to suggest that a victim was going to die shortly anyway of their other complications is another insight into the sociopathic mind of the Pitbull Nutter. *For Karen to even use this as an example of how Pitbulls are not a problem really does boggle the mind, and give you an idea of how desperate they are.*

Another case from the study she cites is actually the case of 7 month old Izaiah Gregory Cox. (The study claimed the boy was 11 months old, but this was a mistake) It is the case of a youngbrutally killed boy by his grandparents Pitbulls. Once again karen claims the dogs weren't Pitbulls, yet every eyewitness to the attack, including the neighbours called the dogs Pitbulls, Animal CONTROL, The Police and The LAW called them Pitbulls, but KAREN has some deluded belief that only she can identify Pitbulls. Karen sincerely believes there are only a handful of qualified people who can identify a Pitbull. As I showed earlier, this claim has been dealt with by every Court in America, all dismissing it as nonsense, and not only that, suggesting that not only is an expert NOT required to identify a pitbull, any laymen can do it with the right information.

Even if there are a few mistakes in relation to the studies data, the overall data is so overwhelming, so incriminating, that the conclusion is obvious to any reasonable person. The a persistent allegation by pit bull terrier advocates that pit bulls are overrepresented because of misidentification 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.

I will finish with this sentiment expressed in the study "Dog attack deaths and maimings, U.S. & Canada September 1982 to December 22, 2009

***"Temperament is not the issue, nor is it even relevant. What is relevant is actuarial risk. If almost any other dog has a bad moment, someone may get bitten, but will not be maimed for life or killed, and the actuarial risk is accordingly reasonable. If a pit bull terrier or a Rottweiler has a bad moment, often someone is maimed or killed--and that has now created off-the-chart actuarial risk, for which the dogs as well as their victims are paying the price."***

Karen Delise simply doesn't have the data or the evidence that she claims she does, if she did she would simply put it forward or produce a study of her own. Karen makes a lot of claims with no verifiable data, and ironically, that is what she accuses others of. I don't suspect you will read my post, but I do this for those who actually want credible information, and not the biased self serving opinion of Pitbull Advocates sponsored by dog fighters. And to suggest that Surgeons are not qualified to comment on serious injuries and yet an animal behaviourist is, smacks of the arrogance that Karen is renowned for. Not only is she a self proclaimed 'Pitbull expert' she challenges surgeons and suggests she is better equipped to analyse injuries than they are. All from photographs I might add. Nobody really takes Karen seriously for these type of reasons. Who do you think is qualified to talk about the injuries and fatalities caused by Dogs, if not the medical professionals who treat the victims, then who? The implication is absurd to put it mildly.

Once again, for those interested in the subject, here are some links to relevant reading material on the matter.

You can read Dr Alan Becks deposition here: <http://legal.pblnn.com/images/Denverpleadings/alanbeckdepo.pdf>

You can read the study Mortality, Mauling, and Maiming by Vicious Dogs 2011 here: [https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B\\_TQhn0TrPSba3p4NW5CT09ZX0E/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B_TQhn0TrPSba3p4NW5CT09ZX0E/edit?usp=sharing)

You can download the Interview with Gary Wilkes an experienced pitbull Trainer here: [https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B\\_TQhn0TrPSbdzhIVTdwUVFkUFk/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B_TQhn0TrPSbdzhIVTdwUVFkUFk/edit?usp=sharing)

You can read the study "Breeds of dogs involved in fatal human attacks in the United States between 1979 and 1998" here [https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B\\_TQhn0TrPSbU1JHWGZPWHZ3a0E/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B_TQhn0TrPSbU1JHWGZPWHZ3a0E/edit?usp=sharing)

You can read Adam Greenbaum, Pkastic Surgeon Interview in relation to Pitbull Injuries here: [https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B\\_TQhn0TrPSbMUR0YzZvbHFnNWc/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B_TQhn0TrPSbMUR0YzZvbHFnNWc/edit?usp=sharing)

You can read the study "Dog attack deaths and maimings, U.S. & Canada September 1982 to December 26, 2011" here [https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B\\_TQhn0TrPSbRDFTTmtyWEFiWTQ/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B_TQhn0TrPSbRDFTTmtyWEFiWTQ/edit?usp=sharing)

You can read the study "Aggressive Behavior in Adopted Dogs (Canis Familiaris) that Passed a Temperament Test" here: [https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B\\_TQhn0TrPSbNnpieXl4Qmotd1E/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B_TQhn0TrPSbNnpieXl4Qmotd1E/edit?usp=sharing)