

# ARE DOGS A REAL DANGER IN THE STATE OF IOWA?

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## A National Canine Research Council Perspective Report

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Over the past forty-two (42) years (1965-2007) there have been two (2) fatal dog attacks in Iowa; approximately one (1) fatal attack every 21 years.

Two different breeds/types of dogs were involved in the two fatalities.

Both cases involved unsupervised children whose parents/caretakers had allowed the child to wander off, alone and unsupervised, to the location of the dog.

**Contrary to much-publicized, 14-year-old estimates, America has seen a dramatic drop in the actual numbers of reported dog bites since the 1970's.**

### Snapshot of Iowa, 2005

Tobacco related fatalities	4,900
Total traffic related fatalities	450
Alcohol related traffic fatalities	117
ATV related fatalities	19
Child homicides	13
Bicycle related fatalities	13
Persons drowned in tub or pool	5
Persons killed by lightning	1
Child death after left in hot car	1
Persons killed by dogs	0



*Photo: [www.ourpack.org](http://www.ourpack.org)*

*Leo, a pit bull rescued from Michael Vick's property, is now a therapy dog, visiting hospitals and helping to rehabilitate juvenile offenders.*

In spite of the reckless practices of a few owners, dogs are valuable members of our communities who give us much more than they could ever take away.

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