

ARE DOGS A REAL DANGER IN THE STATE OF TENNESSEE?

A National Canine Research Council Perspective Report

Over the past forty-two (42) years (1965-2007) there have been twenty-one (21) fatal dog attacks in Tennessee, approximately one (1) fatality every two years.

At least ten (10) different breeds/types of dogs have been involved in the twenty-one fatalities.

The victims were eight (8) adults and thirteen (13) children.

ALL of the owners whose dogs were involved in these fatal attacks had failed to have their dogs spayed or neutered.

More than half (n=7) of the children killed by dogs in Tennessee were attacked when their parents/caretakers allowed them to approach or interact with a dog maintained on a chain or kept in backyard kennel or pen.

One (1) fatality involved a suspected criminal who was apprehended by a working police 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 Tennessee, 2005

Traffic fatalities	1,270
Child deaths from abuse/neglect by caretakers	34
ATV related fatalities	29
Bicycle related fatalities	20
Persons drowned in tubs or pools	16
Death from hornets, bees or wasps	5
Children killed when left in a hot car	2
Fatal hunting accidents	2
Persons killed by lightening	1
Persons killed by dogs	0



Nugget, a pit bull therapy dog, helps to rehabilitate juvenile offenders in Tennessee through "Project PITS".

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.
