

# The answer to dog bites is education, not banning breeds

18/02/2009 9:02:00 AM

The Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) is calling for more funding for responsible pet ownership education programs following a spate of dog bite incidents across Australia.

“Despite the calls for drastic measures we’re hearing in the media at the moment, educating people about responsible pet ownership is the most effective way of stopping these incidents,” Dr Mark Lawrie, AVA President said.

Cowra Shire Council supports the comments made by the Australian Veterinary Association that education programs on responsible pet ownership are effective in preventing dog attacks.

Education programs aimed at improving pet owners’ understanding of canine behaviour would therefore play an important role in improving public safety.

Director Environmental Services, Michael Carter said should funding become available for a responsible pet ownership education program, Council would certainly support the implementation of such a program in Cowra.

Cowra Ranger Services enforces the Companion Animals Act 1998, which bans certain breeds of dogs including pit bull terriers and pit bull crosses, Japanese tosas, dogo Argentinos, fila Brasilerios and “any other dog of a breed, kind or description whose importation into Australia is prohibited under the Customs Act 1901.”

“Proper training and learning social skills are crucial for dogs, and we as owners must be the ones in charge of making sure our pets are taught to relate well to family, friends and strangers.

“It’s vital to make sure we never leave children, particularly those under five years of age, alone with any dog. Research indicates that there is a higher risk of dog bites in young children, especially toddlers, even with dogs that are well known to the family.

“Dogs can become highly excited when they are being hugged, kissed and teased by small children and high-pitched voices can further lift their agitation,” Dr Lawrie said.

“The answer doesn’t lie in banning specific types of dogs but in educating people from an early age to take proper care and responsibility for their animals.

## [Crazy Canines](#)

Pet Sitting & Dog Training Bonded & Insured

[www.crazy-canines.com](http://www.crazy-canines.com)



Ads by Google

## Comments

No comments yet. Be the first to comment below.

## Post A Comment



Kristy Bryant with her son Lucas and pet dog Harvey. Showing love and respect to animals means children and dogs can live together in harmony.

## TheVine

### Top ten awkward celebrity interviews



We all have bad days but rarely must we endure them with millions of people viewing. Maybe it's attempts to talk about their personal life that have turned many an interviewee

#### Also on TheVine

- [The Inglourious Basterds trailer - the QT way](#)
- [Interview - Fatboy Slim](#)
- [Spin off labels](#)



- Earn 1 Qantas Frequent Flyer point per \$1 spent\*
- No capping or expiry of points\*

\*Conditions apply.

**APPLY NOW**



**MADE TO FLY**

#### [Crazy Canines](#)

Pet Sitting & Dog Training Bonded & Insured  
[www.crazy-canines.com](http://www.crazy-canines.com)