



Debbie Maynard <dmaynard@bexley.org>

Re: Dangerous Dogs

1 message

Richard Sharp <rsharp@bexley.org>
To: Lew Heifner <bslsaveslives@gmail.com>
Bcc: dmaynard@bexley.org

Sat, Apr 9, 2016 at 8:25 AM

Thank you for your thoughts and information.

Rich Sharp, Chair
City of Bexley Council Safety Committee

On Sat, Apr 9, 2016 at 1:23 AM, Lew Heifner <bslsaveslives@gmail.com> wrote:

I live in Lakewood Ohio, and we are very fortunate to have Breed Specific Legislation banning blood sport dogs such as pit bulls. It is far from perfect, people still bring their dangerous dogs into our community however, we have more recourse against an owner in the event of a serious mauling or fatality. Pit bull advocates are ignorant of genetic behavior of dogs are naively unaware of the dangers. This advocacy is responsible for many injuries and deaths every year. Pit bull advocates will tell you that people like me hate dogs, nothing could be further from the truth. My wife and I share our home with 5 dogs and we very often dog sit for friends and family. For many years, I bred championship hunting Labrador Retrievers, I have a considerable wealth of knowledge of canine genetic behavior.

Currently, I work with a national dog bite victim's group and we are dedicated to reducing serious dog attacks. We fully support Breed Specific Legislation to ban the most dangerous dogs.

In 2015, 29 Americans were killed by pit bulls, All other breeds combined killed 5. 2 of these 5 fatalities were from unidentified breeds and could have been pit bulls as well.

Pit bull type dogs kill 28-35 Americans every year and maul hundreds of others serious enough to require hospitalization. Thousands of pets are cruelly killed by pit bull type dogs. The vast majority of the pit bull type dogs that kill are family pets, and are not trained fighters. Breed Specific Legislation is needed to protect our communities.

Dogs have a great deal of instinctive behavior hardwired into their brains, their instincts dominate their behavior. Instinctive behaviors are the default behaviors that drive a dog

If you want a dog to help you hunt ducks, one would select a Chesapeake Bay Retriever or a Labrador Retriever, these dogs are bred with the physical and mental characteristics to make them excel at these tasks. Selective breeding has given them webbed feet for more efficient swimming, a large thick tail for an effective rudder, thick undercoat for insulation from the icy waters they retrieve downed ducks from, and a love of retrieving. These dogs are genetically hardwired to perform these tasks; one would hardly expect to get a chow or a doberman to do the same work.

If you have a flock of sheep, one would select a border collie to look after the animals. Border collies are bred to herd animals; they have an incredible attention span and endurance that is not to be believed. These physical and mental characteristics have been carefully selectively bred into these dogs to make them suitable for these tasks.

Other examples; golden's retrieve, pointers point, and bloodhounds track, you get the idea. All of these behaviors are instinctive and are not "how it's raised".

Today's pit bull type dog is a descendant of the original English bull-baiting dog, a dog that was bred to bite

and hold bulls, bears and other large animals around the face and head. When baiting large animals was outlawed in 1835, people turned instead to fighting their dogs against each other. These larger, slower bull-baiting dogs were crossed with smaller, quicker terriers to produce a more agile and athletic dog for fighting other dogs. All of these physical and mental characteristics have been carefully selectively bred into pit bull type dogs to make them suitable for these tasks. Seriously, are these the genetically hardwired selectively bred tasks you want in a dog that you expose your fellow citizens, friends and loved ones to? I would hope not, steer clear of pit bull type dogs and other bully breeds.

Pit bull type dogs have "abnormal" instincts bred into them such as a lack of fear and self-preservation, not to mention resistance to pain. The various traits bred into them makes them much more dangerous than other dogs, even ones who are larger and more powerful. The pit bull type dog problem is made far worse because well-meaning people do not understand dogs' behaviors. Human emotions and moralities are naively applied to dogs. When a pit bull type dog kills, it experiences the "emotion" of accomplishment and victory over the weak. A dog will not experience the same emotion of regret that a human may feel. Attempts at punishment would only be effective if applied a mere few seconds after the bad behavior. A human child can be punished weeks after the bad behavior and understand why they are being punished. The more primitive level of comprehension in a dog makes reward / punishment far more complex.

This issue has never been about which breeds bite the most. The issue with pit bull type dogs is the degree of damage they inflict, and their attacks being more likely to result in a fatality. Appellate courts across the United States have recognized the dangers of the pit bull breed for over 25 years.
Identifying pit bull type dogs;

https://scholar.google.com/scholar_case?case=1496137140642653899&q

When pit bull type dog apologists talk about how the dog is raised refer to this PBS documentary. The segment on the foxes demonstrates it is all about genetic, instinctive behavior.

<https://vimeo.com/19472436>

<http://www.instituteofcaninebiology.org/genetics-of-behavior-and-performance.html>

<http://www.border-wars.com/2015/03/its-all-in-how-you-train-them-not-really.html>

Nanny dog myth;

<https://www.facebook.com/BADRAP.org/posts/10151460774472399>

<http://thetruthaboutpitbulls.blogspot.com/2010/08/nanny-dog-myth-revealed.html>

Newly adopted dogs that "passed" the temperament testing:

<http://longisland.news12.com/news/dog-adopted-by-patchogue-family-attacks-daughter-1.10815699>

<http://www.nbcnewyork.com/news/local/Rescued-Pit-Bull-Attacks-Teenage-Daughter-Euthanized-325519571.html>

<https://www.facebook.com/mary.urban.delaney/videos/10205426049553777/>

Pit bull type dogs attacking with wagging tails;

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ESHBBLeOaqk>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M-iYiCBz7Uw>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vt2fCXtJlq0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mPAqAqfX3es>

Pit bull type dogs attacking police;

https://youtu.be/TwoOvVah_oc

<https://youtu.be/TRk9OCU6SWM>

<https://youtu.be/BgcKOG1j31Y>

https://youtu.be/k_C4EY-11gM

Thank you for your consideration,
Lew Heifner