

Bulli Ray Enterprises Newsletter

Occupational Dog Bite Safety

Issue #30 August 2005

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**Las Vegas Train-the-Trainer
Conference Nov. 2005**

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**Aggressive Dogs Threaten
Public Safety**

• **Responsible Ownership**

The right dog, well cared for, is a safe, reliable companion. However, dogs must be properly socialized and trained. They become a threat if they are abused, or deliberately bred or trained to attack people or animals. Any dog may bite if it is threatened, angry, afraid or in pain. Dogs have an instinct to defend their territory, whether that is space, food or a toy.



Most dog bite victims are children. In many cases, teasing or unintentionally provoking an aggressive reaction from a dog leads to a bite, but occasionally an attack is unprovoked. That is why small children should never be left alone with a dog. Whether or not there is a dog in the family, parents need to teach their children how to behave around dogs.

Dogs trained or bred to be vicious are often owned by drug dealers, criminal groups, and violent or irresponsible individuals who wish to intimidate others. These dogs - and their owners - present a serious threat to community safety. In the past few years, fear of crime has led more people to acquire a dog for protection. But if they cannot control the animal, they endanger themselves and the community. For those who feel vulnerable, security devices available today offer much safer options.

Lifestyle is another factor. Owning a dog demands a major time commitment, as they need a lot of attention. Any owner who must keep a dog locked up (or chained outside) for 12 hours a day should probably not own one.

<http://www.safety-council.org>

• **Breed of the month: English Foxhound**



The phrase "dog bite epidemic" appears on several US-based Web sites. Statistics show dog bites are on the rise in that country. Although the number of dogs in the United States increased by only 2 percent between 1986 and 1996, the number of dog bite injuries requiring medical treatment rose by 33 percent.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about 4.7 million Americans - almost two per cent of the population - were bitten by dogs in 1994. One out of six required medical treatment. The American Humane Association calls dog bites a greater health problem for children in the US, than measles, mumps, and whooping cough combined, and points to data showing almost 70 percent of dog-bite victims are children under 15 years of age.

The Insurance Information Institute reported that claims related to dog bites accounted for about one quarter of all homeowner's liability claims in the US, with an average claim of \$16,600. The fact that over half of the bites occur on the dog owner's property has prompted some American insurers to take steps to limit their losses.

The English Foxhound was bred in England by the Nobility and Aristocracy specifically for the sport of foxhunting. It was probably cross bred originally from French hunting dogs during the Middle ages. The history of England is long and colorful and was highly influenced by the French during Medieval times. The influence occurred during



events such as the Norman Invasion of 1066 and it will come as a revelation to many that the only spoken language of the famed English King, Richard the Lionheart, was in fact French. English Hunters wanted smaller and faster dogs than the traditional Hound dogs that could join in the horse back hunts. Organized fox hunts have played a part in English hunts since the practice began in the 13th century. The breeding process included strains of the Bloodhound Terrier, Bulldog and Greyhound to eventually produce the English Foxhound known today. The English Foxhounds continue to work in hunting packs today, participating in Fox hunts. Riding to hounds is a highly traditional activity for the wealthy and is steeped in ceremony. The care and breeding of the packs are under the direction of the Master of the Hounds and the Hunting costumes and clothing of the Fox Hunters riding their horses and surrounded by the hounds create a typically English picture, is viewed as part of the English heritage which has been depicted in countless paintings by English artists. Foxhunting, and other blood sports, are continuously under great debate in the UK with frequent anti - bloodsport protestors disrupting Fox hunts. Farmers and the English aristocracy argue that the sport keeps down the number of foxes - it is believed that the tradition of Fox hunts will eventually be abolished.

The English Foxhound belongs to the collection of dogs referred to as Scent Hounds, which specialise in following the scent or the smell of its quarry. It wasn't until the mid 1500's that hounds began to be classified according to their purpose, i.e. sight hounds, scent hounds, etc. Scent Hounds have distinctive characteristics, features and traits which are perfect for their purpose. They have large noses which have deep, open nostrils and their lips are loose and moist, designed to pick up scent particles and follow the trail of an animal. Their ears are long which concentrates the scent on the nose. Their bodies are designed for endurance, an essential asset when following any scent trail.

Hunting takes different forms and as man opts for hunting their quarry either on foot or on horseback the scent hounds have been selectively bred to produce small legs, to enable a man to easily follow on foot, or longer legs suited to keep up with a man on horseback. Most scent hounds were used in packs - making a

Canadian Data Lacking Canada has no national data on canine population, dog-related deaths and injuries, or which breeds cause the most harm. In Canada, much of the insurance-related liability is borne by our health care system. Dog bites are a common reason for emergency room visits. Yet there is no mandatory reporting of these bites - not to mention the dogs' ownership, breed, spay/neuter status or history of aggression.

The coroner's report on a six-year old girl killed by dogs in 1999 found that 117,000 Quebecers claimed to have been bitten by a dog between 1997 and 1998. Of these, 75 per cent were under the age of 10 and half were bitten by their own dogs. Extrapolating these numbers, the Canada Safety Council estimates that dogs bite 460,000 Canadians annually. Our problem is likely as serious as that of our southern neighbor. All too often, the news carries reports of unprovoked attacks by dogs. Some kill smaller pets. Others attack people. Injuries can be severe, sometimes requiring extensive surgery.

Dangerous Breeds: Statistics show that some breeds are more likely to be involved in vicious attacks. European countries have banned or outlawed the import and breeding of breeds deemed dangerous. Also many districts across the United States have developed breed specific legislation. A few Canadian municipalities have taken this approach, often in the wake of a serious incident.

Authorities should beware that breed bans may provoke people who want aggressive dogs to seek out other breeds to breed or train them to become vicious. After France passed legislation against certain breeds, Barbary apes were smuggled into the country to act as watchdogs. The apes have strong limbs, sharp teeth and short tempers; they attack

loud, deep baying noise alerting hunters to their location. As a pet the English Foxhound is a very active dog and is best suited to families who are very experienced with dogs.

- **Breed Origins:** England (Middle Ages)
- **Breed usage:** Hunting Foxes
- **Dog Weight:** 55 - 75 Pounds
- **Dog Height:** 23 to 27 inches to the shoulder

The English Foxhound's coat comes in a range of any recognised hound colours: Usually tri-colour (black, white & tan), or bi-colour with a white background. The coat is dense, short and weather proof.

● **NSC 93rd Annual Congress & Expo 2005 Orlando, FL**



We are glad to be apart of this great conference! Mark your calendars for our live Occupational Dog Bite Safety Demo "For People in Harm's Way".

September 21, 2005, 3:30PM - 5:00PM

2005 National Safety Council Congress & Expo

● **LIMITED TIME ONLY!: FREE Dog Bite Sticks or Batons**

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● **Las Vegas Train-the-Trainer Conference Nov. 2005**

humans on the head. Breed bans should not be used as a quick fix. The solution lies in a combination of effective animal control measures, reputable breeders, responsible owners, public education, backed up with enforcement and based on reliable data.

[US Study on Dog Bite Fatalities \(PDF\)](#)

Bulli Ray Links!

- [Safety Products](#)
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:: cinderball37@hotmail.com

:: <http://www.bulliray.com>

:: 888-777-3647

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Who Should Attend: Safety Professionals and Directors who are responsible for Occupational Dog Bite Safety, OSHA Compliance Managers, Regional Safety Directors, Managers, Presenters, and Trainers supporting individuals who work in the field, in homes, or on customer premises, Anyone interested in reducing the incidence of dog attacks on employees, contractors, or associated workers, Safety Trainers who address dog bite problems. Call us at 866-880- 0842 today for details. Date & Location: Nov 9-10th 2005 Imperial Palace Hotel Las Vegas,NV

[Click here for brochure & registration form!](#)

- **Speaker at TTT: Albert "Skip" Rizzo, Ph.D. on Virtual Reality "Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder"**



We are very excited about Dr Rizzo demonstrating this **Virtual Reality on "Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder"**. It doesn't get much more real than that!

What is **Virtual reality** (VR): A new human- computer interaction paradigm in which users are active participants within a computer-generated three- dimensional virtual world.

What is **Post Traumatic Stress Disorder:** (PTSD) A chronic, debilitating, psychological condition that occurs in a subset of persons who experience or witness life threatening traumatic

events. PTSD is characterized by re-experiencing, avoidance, and hyperarousal symptoms that occur over time and lead to significant disruption in ones life.

BIO: Albert "Skip" Rizzo, Ph.D.
