



March 21, 2007

More pit bull news, but what are real facts?

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Regarding "Officer kills attacking dog" by Vic Ryckaert, March 16: This is likely considered news because the dog was reportedly a pit bull. Would this have been a news item if it had been a lab mix? And who identified the dog as a pit bull? I have found that most people can't tell a pit bull from any other blocky-headed, short-coated dog. The media over-report bites and attacks by dogs identified as pit bulls.

There are other factors more important than just breed. About 80 percent of bites are committed by dogs that have not been spayed or neutered. The same can be said for the care and treatment of the dog. And not all police officers are trained to read dog body language. I shudder to think what would happen to my three friendly mixed-breed dogs, who never leave my property off leash, if an officer with a gun ever ventured onto my property.

Because it is an ordinance violation to let your dog (or cat) run at large in Indianapolis, I trust that owners will be cited appropriately. Whatever the dog's temperament or intent, this is ultimately another case of a dog suffering and dying as a result of human negligence.

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