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Letters: Banning pit bulls not answer to dog attacks

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First, I'd like to give my condolences to the owner of the Chihuahua that was killed by a pit bull.

Having lost an animal to another dog (not a pit bull, but a Jack Russell terrier), I can understand the grief.

However, banning the dog is not the answer.

It is the owner's responsibility to train the dog. Any dog can attack another dog.

It's very unfortunate that the majority of the attacks that are reported in papers involve pit bulls or other breeds that come off more aggressive than others.

The truth is any dog can turn and be aggressive to another animal or person. It's up to the owners to train the dogs properly and to have control over them at all times.

Unfortunately, too many people obtain these dogs for the wrong reason and/or have little understanding of the inherent traits this breed possesses.

People need to understand that a pit bull is not a breed; it is a term used to describe a type of dog with the same characteristics. This makes them known to the public as "pit bulls."

Even Spuds McKenzie (the famous dog used to advertise beer) falls under this category.

Human aggression, severe shyness, and instability are not traits typically found and accepted in the American pit bull terrier breed. Like any breed, pit bulls can develop behavior problems if poorly bred, mishandled, abused or unsocialized, which could result in inappropriate aggression.

Any large, strong and powerful dog that attacks can do a lot of damage. This is why the owner needs to take care in handling these animals. Breeders and owners need to remember that these dogs were originally bred to fight bulls in pits for entertainment.

This is where the term "pit bull" comes from.

Owners need to have the knowledge and training ability to handle these dogs.

SARA TURK

Sheboygan