

# Top dog for city attacks

BY TRACEY PRISK

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THE red cattle dog has been named the breed of dog most likely to have been involved in a local dog attack.

The popular farm dog tops the list of the breed of dog most frequently involved in the 22 dog attack incidents which occurred in Orange in the last financial year.

The number one rating given the red cattle dog defies a state-wide survey that listed Staffordshire terriers and Rottweilers as the worst offenders.

According to the Orange City Council's manager communications and public relations Nick Redmond, while the red cattle dog proved the most prominent offender in Orange, breeds such as pit bull terriers, Rottweiler crosses, labradors and Maltese terriers were also named in council's top offenders list.

"Some of these reported attacks referred to aggressive behaviour from the dogs and only nine of the attacks involved people being bitten or injured," said Mr Redmond.

"Also of the 22 attacks, seven of them were reported by a third person who witnessed the attack.

"While dog attacks are obviously not a massive problem, we'd prefer it if there were none."

If the council does declare a particular dog dangerous, once notified the owner can be forced to build an inclosure to keep the dog or simply surrender the dog.

According to Mr Redmond in this instance most owners choose to surrender their dogs.

"The council would like to encourage people to report incidents of dog attacks when they can," he said.

Of NSW's 69 serious attacks during the same period, some 51 victims were hospitalised.

Of these 51 attacks, 18 resulted in court action and 29 of the attacks took place on a private property, mostly at the dog owner's home.

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enclosure is spelt with an "e" and not an "i".

Posted by **winchur** on 11/11/2008 10:29:13 PM

Maybe it is time Orange put more focus on responsible pet ownership? Get more dog clubs up and running and teach people how to care for their pets and keep them safe? Blame the deed, not the breed.

Posted by **CC** on 12/11/2008 3:45:49 PM

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NUMBER ONE: If you're involved in a dog attack in Orange, chances are it's with a red cattle dog.

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