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### **The #1 Danger of Dog Ownership: Bites**

Every day 1,000 Americans are treated in emergency rooms for dog bites. In 2010 there were 34 fatal dog attacks in the USA. Most of the victims who receive medical attention are children, half of whom are bitten in the face. Getting bitten by a dog is the fifth most frequent cause of children's accidents resulting in emergency rooms visits.

The most recent official survey, conducted more than a decade ago, determined there were 4.7 million dog bite victims annually in the USA. Dog bite losses exceed \$1 billion per year, with over \$300 million paid by homeowners insurance. Every year 2,851 letter carriers are bitten. (US Postal Service). The vast majority of biting dogs (77%) belong to the victim's family or a friend. (<http://dogbitelaw.com/dog-bite-statistics/dog-bite-statistics.html>)

Most of you reading this are thinking "My Dog wouldn't do that"; think again. Though they are part of our families, they are animals. Most people do not understand the complexities of dog behaviour and treat their beloved Fido like any other human family member. The truth is, you are doing an injustice to your dog by not treating him or her like a dog.

When dogs are trained and taught their place in our household from a young age, they are living 'stress free'. Boundaries have been set and their place in your family is made very clear. It's when our dogs are treated like small children that problems can occur. It's not only the 'bad dogs' that need the training, each dog, no matter the size or breed, needs an education so they know what is expected of them and so they do not become a statistic.

Irresponsible dog ownership begins with the owner who does not go through formal training. Dogs need at least 1 ½ years of consistent, daily training to become good members in our society. And, irresponsible trainers will tell you to keep it all positive, no corrections. That does not work in our society and it doesn't work in the dog world. Dogs, like children, need boundaries and limitations and a clear, humane form of correction when the rules are broken. Consequences must arise when the rules are not followed.

My training not only involves teaching your dog basic good manners but also teaching you dog behaviour and body language and the signs you need to look for so you and your family don't become a statistic. I create a specific/step by step program for you, your family and your dog based upon each individual's needs and your dog's temperament. The training involves clear communication with your dog. The only thing I require is your 100% commitment to the program. Dog bites are almost entirely preventable through education and awareness and, of course, human willingness to pay attention and exercise good judgment. Call or email me now; you can't afford not to. ([beth@dog-trainer.biz](mailto:beth@dog-trainer.biz) or 201-247-8472)