

Media Bias in Reporting Dog Attacks: June 2006

Attacks by non-pit bull dogs are rarely taken up by national or international media sources, while this is regularly the case with pit bull attacks.

- A three-year-old Virginia boy was admitted to the hospital with “extensive injuries”. The child was attacked by a Golden Retriever mixed breed dog. The wounds to the child required 300 stitches; and the child will require additional surgeries to “functionally repair muscles, nerves and work on scars”. **This incident was reported in only two local Virginia newspapers.**
- A 3-year-old girl is admitted to Children’s Hospital in Denver with serious lacerations to her face and head. The hospital declined to release the child’s name or information on her condition. She had been attacked at her home by a Labrador Retriever. **This attack was reported four times and only in Colorado media sources.**
- An Indiana woman is attacked and knocked to the ground by a German Shepherd dog. The dog she was walking, a small Sheltie mix was also attacked. Neighbors responded and managed to restrain the German Shepherd, but not before the woman was bitten twice in the face. Her small dog was so gravely injured that it was euthanized. **This incident was reported in only one local Indiana newspaper.**
- An 11-year-old girl was bitten in the leg and received “serious, but not life-threatening injuries”, when she was attacked by two Pit bulls in California. Her injuries required hospitalization. **This incident was reported in over ninety-one national and international newspapers. Forbes, FOX News, along with the Washington Post, LA Times, Chicago Tribune and dozens of other major news organizations headlined this “Pit Bull Attack”.**