

Study Looks Beyond Breed to Assess Dog Bite Risk to Children
Size and head shape should be taken into account to measure risk, prevent injuries

The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center

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NEWS PACKAGE



SUGGESTED TEASE	CERTAIN BREEDS OF DOGS POSE A HIGHER RISK FOR BITING AND CAUSING SERIOUS INJURIES, BUT THAT MIGHT NOT TELL THE WHOLE STORY. COMING UP, DETAILS ON A NEW STUDY THAT LOOKS BEYOND BREED TO HELP KEEP KIDS SAFE AROUND DOGS.
ANCHOR LEAD	NEARLY FIVE MILLION PEOPLE SUFFER DOG BITES EACH YEAR IN THE U-S ¹ , AND CHILDREN ARE AT A MUCH HIGHER RISK OF BEING BITTEN THAN ADULTS. BUT TO TRULY UNDERSTAND THE RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH DIFFERENT TYPES OF DOGS, WE HAVE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THEIR UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS. BARB CONSIGLIO HAS DETAILS ON A NEW STUDY ² THAT ARMS PARENTS AND DOG OWNERS WITH KNOWLEDGE THAT CAN HELP KEEP KIDS SAFE.
(PACKAGE START) -----	
CG: Courtesy: The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center :00 - :03	(Nats - Sound) :02 FOR JESSICA GEIGER-HAYES, THE DAY HER DAUGHTER WAS ATTACKED BY THREE MASTIFFS WAS A BLUR. :04
CG: Jessica Geiger-Hayes Daughter bitten by dogs	<i>"When they uncovered her and un-bandaged her from the EMTs is when it first hit me for just how bad it was."</i> :08
CG: Dr. Garth Essig Ohio State Wexner Medical Center	AILEE NEEDED SURGERY TO REPAIR WOUNDS ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF HER BODY AND FACE. BUT THE EFFECTS OF THAT DAY GO FAR BEYOND HER PHYSICAL SCARS. :07 <i>"The physical and psychological consequences from a dog bite can't be overstated."</i> :07 DOCTOR GARTH ESSIG LED A STUDY AT THE

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<p>Shots of Dr. Essig working</p> <p>Dr. Essig (CG'd earlier)</p> <p>Graphic: -Pitbulls and mixed breeds caused most frequent and severe injuries -In 60% of dog bite cases, breed could not be determined -Study examined weight and head shape</p> <p>Dr. Essig (CG'd earlier)</p> <p>Shots of girl walking up to dog</p> <p>Shots of dogs playing with people and other dogs in park</p> <p>CG: Meghan Herron, DVM Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine</p> <p>Shot of dog walking while bike rolls by</p> <p>Shots of Ailee walking her dog</p> <p>Jessica Geiger-Hayes (CG'd earlier)</p> <p>Shots of mom greeting Ailee and Charlie after walk</p>	<p>OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY WEXNER MEDICAL CENTER TO BETTER UNDERSTAND WHICH DOGS POSE THE HIGHEST RISK, EXAMINING TWO-HUNDRED-FORTY EMERGENCY ROOM VISITS OVER FIFTEEN YEARS FOR FACIAL DOG BITES IN CHILDREN AND FORTY-FIVE YEARS OF ADDITIONAL DOG BITE DATA. :15</p> <p><i>“Anywhere from a superficial scrape or abrasion, all the way to something that’s more significant in terms of loss of tissue, facial fracture or even death.” :11</i></p> <p>PITBULLS AND MIXED BREED DOGS WERE FOUND TO BITE MOST FREQUENTLY AND CAUSE THE MOST SEVERE INJURIES, BUT IN SIXTY PERCENT OF CASES, A SPECIFIC BREED COULD NOT BE IDENTIFIED, HIGHLIGHTING THE NEED TO GO BEYOND BREED TO PHYSICAL FEATURES LIKE WEIGHT AND HEAD SHAPE. :11</p> <p><i>“Some of the dogs that tended to be larger, like 66 to 100 pounds, and the shape of their head was one that was wider than it is long, tended to cause more severe damage.” :12</i></p> <p>ANY DOG HAS THE POTENTIAL TO BITE, BUT TEACHING KIDS HOW TO SAFELY INTERACT WITH DOGS CAN HELP LOWER THEIR RISK. :05</p> <p>(Nats) - “May I please pet your dog?” “Sure, her name is Chili!” :03</p> <p>AND DOG OWNERS CAN HELP BY SOCIALIZING THEM WHEN THEY’RE PUPPIES. :03</p> <p><i>“That’s where they need to be exposed to all different people, places, environments, dogs, children, things with wheels.” :07</i></p> <p>JESSICA HAS BEEN AMAZED BY HER DAUGHTER’S RESILIENCE AND LOVE OF ANIMALS, ESPECIALLY HER NEW DOG, CHARLIE. :05</p> <p><i>“Ailee will come down and Charlie will be on the floor and they’ll just be laying on the floor together, and hanging out.” :05</i></p> <p>AT THE OHIO STATE WEXNER MEDICAL CENTER, THIS IS BARB CONSIGLIO REPORTING. :03</p> <hr/>
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<p>(PACKAGE END) -----</p> <p>ANCHOR TAG</p>	<p>RESEARCHERS HOPE INFORMATION FROM THE STUDY CAN HELP FAMILIES MAKE CHOICES ABOUT TYPES OF DOGS THAT DO WELL IN HOUSEHOLDS WITH SMALL CHILDREN.</p> <p>VETERINARIANS ALSO SUGGEST SETTING RULES AT HOME TO PREVENT BITES, LIKE NEVER TAKING A TOY OUT OF A DOG’S MOUTH AND GIVING YOUR DOG A SEPARATE AND SAFE PLACE TO SLEEP.</p>
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SOCIAL MEDIA

<p> Share it! Suggested tweet:</p> <p> Suggested post:</p>	<p>Research by @OSUWexMed explains which characteristics make some dog bite injuries worse than others. http://bit.ly/2JJxXmS</p> <hr/> <p>A new study by researchers at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center goes beyond breed to examine physical characteristics that lead to more severe dog bite injuries. http://bit.ly/2JJxXmS</p>
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EXTRA BITES

<p>CG: Dr. Garth Essig Ohio State Wexner Medical Center</p> <p>CG: Dr. Charles Elmaraghy Nationwide Children’s Hospital</p>	<p>Essig explains the purpose of the study: <i>“The purpose of this study was to evaluate dog bites in children, and we specifically looked at how breed relates to bite frequency and bite severity.”</i></p> <p>Essig says they looked at characteristics beyond just breed: <i>“Because of the dilemma related to not knowing the breed of a significant proportion of the animals involved, we looked at physical characteristics of the animal.”</i></p> <p>Essig explains why children are at a higher risk for dog bites: <i>“They tend to be shorter in stature, maybe eye-level with the animal, and they may not understand when an animal is in distress or irritated or sick, and so they may not see those cues, and so it’s very important to always supervise children when they’re around dogs.”</i></p> <hr/> <p>Elmaraghy says the goal is to help families lower risks to kids: <i>“We wanted to see if we could pull from our data any trends that families could use, and just the general population could use, to help guide these types of decisions and also kind of determine the inherent risk of having a dog with a young child.”</i></p> <p>Elmaraghy explains the range of injuries from facial dog bites: <i>“We see from simple lacerations to, you know, injuries in which there’s significant tissue loss that needs grafting or other reconstructive surgery. We see nerve injury; we’ve seen major vessel injury from dog bites.”</i></p>
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CG: Meghan Herron, DVM
Ohio State University College of
Veterinary Medicine

Herron says certain dog features cause more severe damage:
“Any dog breed has the propensity to bite, but the stronger the jaw, the larger the head, the larger the teeth, certainly the more propensity there is for damage from a bite.”

Herron explains the correct way to approach a dog:
“Rather than leaning forward and reaching out your hand for that dog to smell, which is commonly what people think is the right thing to do, but in reality that can actually be somewhat threatening to the dog, so stand up, turn to the side, maybe crouch down on knees, pat your leg, let the dog come to you.”

CG: Jessica Geiger-Hayes
Daughter bitten by dogs

Jessica says a therapy dog helped Ailee with her fear of dogs:
“She started interacting with a therapy dog at school, which she really enjoyed. They took it at her pace. They started with just bringing, his name was Chandler, and they brought him into the room, and just let her be in the room. And then if she wanted to go up and pet him, they let her do that.”

Jessica says she teaches her children to be safe around dogs:
“We were always, would say, be very safe, and say, make sure you ask permission, don’t just walk up to a dog. Only pet it where the owner tells you that you can pet it. Don’t pull its ears, don’t pull its tail. If you feel uncomfortable tell us, and we’ll just turn around and walk away.”

References

¹*Dog Bite Statistics (How Likely Are You To Get Bit?)*, **Canine Journal**, May 2019. Online:
<https://www.caninejournal.com/dog-bite-statistics/>

²*Dog bite injuries to the face: Is there risk with breed ownership? A systematic review with meta-analysis*, **International Journal of Pediatric Otorhinolaryngology**, Volume 117, Feb. 2019. Online:
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0165587618305950?via%3Dihub>

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