

Debunking DogsBite!

Don't just take it from me, listen to the facts and research of DogsBite (DBO) and come to your own conclusion from the research I have collected.

The Truth Behind Dogsbite.org (https://adbadog.com/truth-behind-dogsbite-org/?fbclid=IwAR1xAKjVEedqiP6McCQP5kwcBIXiuvS-mMw_uIACtvajcprsBY_UPI4r3w0)

Dogsbite.org is not an "expert" organization when it comes to canine behavior. There, I've said it.

While it seems that lately, several media outlets have been treating them like they have a particular knowledge on the subject of dog bites and attacks (I'll get to a possible "why" on that later in the post), it doesn't erase the reality that dogsbite.org is simply a website run almost entirely by an individual person who has an expertise in web design, access to Google, and a desire to seek revenge on an attack that happened to her several years. Those are the qualifications behind the website. And it runs no deeper than that. And treating the website as anything more than that is a recipe bad information that will lead to less safe circumstances for people and dogs. Let me explain.

Dogsbite.org is a website run by Colleen Lynn. In June of 2007, Lynn was an unfortunate victim of a dog bite while she was out jogging. Because of the dog bite, by a dog that is said to be a 'pit bull', Lynn decided to create the website dogsbite.org. According to [the original "about us" section](#) of the website, the intent of the website was three-fold:

- Distinguish which breeds of dogs are dangerous to have in neighborhoods
- Help enact laws to regulate the ownership of these breeds
- Help enact laws that hold dog owners criminally liable if their dog attacks a person or causes serious injury or death

While I actually agree with her original third mission statement, the original purpose of the website is very clearly the first two statements -- she intended to target particular breeds of dogs and ban ownership of those breeds. The goal was not public education or anything that she claims it to be about now -- it was about enacting breed specific legislation...even though she has no credentials to propose legislation like that with any basis of expertise.

And make no mistake; all of the expert's organizations disagree with her idea on breed-specific legislation.

Every mainstream national organization that is involved in canine/human interactions is opposed to laws targeting specific breeds of dogs. An at-least partial list of these organizations include:

American Dog Owners Association
American Humane
American Kennel Club (AKC)
American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA)
American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)
American Working Dog Federation
Association of Pet Dog Trainers
Best Friends
Center for Disease Control
Humane Society of the United States (HSUS)
International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants
International Association of Canine Professionals
National Animal Control Association
National Animal Interest Alliance
[National Association of Dog Obedience Instructors](#)
[National Canine Research Council](#)
No Kill Advocacy Center

These groups represent the best of the best in the United States for Dog Trainers, Rescues, Shelters, Animal Behaviorists, Government entities, veterinarians, and even Animal Control Officers. All of them oppose breed specific legislation. All of them, in large part, because they have experience working with the actual dogs, and read the science, and realize the [aggression is not a breed-specific issue](#) -and the reality is that most dogs, regardless of breed, do not show aggressive behavior -- and yet, some dogs, of each breed, have.

All recommend dog ordinances that focus on the behaviors of the actual dogs, and not on its body type.

And not listening to the professional organizations, and instead, listening to an "organization" that has no expertise, can lead to bad results. Again, their focus is not in the best interests of public safety...it's about getting revenge.

For example: at the end of 2008, [Dogsbite.org named Lucas County \(OH\) Dog Warden Tom Skeldon their "Dog Warden of the year."](#) Their reasoning is that "Skeldon has

vigorously worked to prevent horrendous pit bull maulings resulting in serious injuries or death of human beings, their domesticated pets and livestock." Interestingly, in the same year that Skeldon received this "award", the actual number of [dog bites in Lucas County had gone up 23%](#).

So dog bites go up, and they give the man the dog warden of the year award because he is targeting 'pit bulls'. Does that sound like the resume of an award winner for a group advocating for public safety to you? Me neither.

Within a year of them issuing the "award", [Skeldon stepped down from his position under significant public pressure](#). The actual citizens who had to put up with Skeldon's behavior, outrageous shelter kill rates and lack of improved public safety actually forced him out of office.



But nothing may be worse than a fairly recent post (you can click on the picture to the left to read a screen shot of it) actually claiming that parents shouldn't be expected to teach their children to be respectful around dogs even [though major, well-respected, dog training groups recommend otherwise](#). If you can teach a young child to not touch a hot oven, then they can at least understand "caution" around dogs. It is this type of irresponsibility that is making people LESS safe, not more safe.

Oh, there are other grievances. There is the reality that they claim dogs of even distantly-related breeds -- including Boxers, Bulldogs and Mastiffs - to all be 'pit bulls' in their "statistics". They consistently claim that all of the professional organizations that oppose BSL are only doing so because they are supported by dog fighters*. They censor all comments on their website that even come remotely close to disputing anything they post -- even if it is someone who is providing actual data that is correcting something they misspoke about -- again, censoring other types of thinking isn't exactly something you'd expect from a "public education" website.

- *That all of these organizations are opposed to BSL because they are supported dog fighters and dog breeders are a particularly funny notion. Many of the organizations that oppose BSL spend literally millions upon millions of dollars trying to shut down dog fighting operations, and all of the orgs oppose dog fighting in principle, even if they aren't actively working to shut the groups down. And as for breeding, several of the groups support breeders and several are*

working very hard to end breeding and spend countless dollars arguing amongst themselves on the breeding issue - -so the idea they would agree on this subject because they are supported by breeders is baseless too -- to the point that it's kind of comical.

And this doesn't even include [their inaccurate use of case studies to support their point of view vs. reporting the actual data](#). Or the reality that one city that allowed them to influence their policy-making, Omaha, [has had a disastrous year](#).

So, the question then remains, how is it that an organization that has so few real credentials continues to get quoted by media outlets out there?

One of the things that journalism schools around the nation teach is the importance of providing both sides of a story. There are always two sides, and they teach the importance of providing both. So when it comes to the argument about whether or not to ban 'pit bulls', dogsbite.org ends up being THE ONLY 'organization' in favor of banning 'pit bulls'. So the media almost has to use them, because they are the only ones with the alternative viewpoint.

And that folks, is the sad truth about dogsbite.org. They are the only one(s) that favor BSL. And they do so based on having a website and Google -- not with any real expertise in working with dogs.

And that's very telling.

Oh sure, they will likely retort with criticisms of me, and what are my true credentials. It's true, that even though I've worked in rescue, and I've worked with hundreds of dogs that would be considered 'pit bulls', I have no credentials after my name. I'm not a certified trainer, or a vet. However, I will say this. My opinion is the same one shared by the national organizations that speak for veterinarians, animal control officers, dog trainers and rescuers throughout the nation. So pretty much everyone that has knowledge of canine/human interactions supports my ideas and point of view. Their support group is a city attorney in Denver and an animal control officer that was forced out of his job in Toledo. That's it.

And that's the truth about dogsbite.org. Fine, give them the "other" voice. But let's not mistake them for an organization that has any form of expertise, or any unique knowledge. Let's not mistake them for anything more than a person, with a website, that is seeking revenge for an incident that happened to her. No more, no less.

On one final note to Ms. Lynn. I am sorry that you were attacked by a dog. And I do hope the owner of the attacking dog was held appropriately accountable for the actions of their dog. But it was one dog -- and is not reflective of the millions of dogs out there

of this type -- and I would encourage you to go to your local shelter and meet some more of the dogs that you seek to destroy. And I hope that pushing for ordinances that actually improve public safety, and that pushing for educating parents on how to introduce pets and children, will trump your desire for personal vengeance so that we can actually create a safer society.

[Merritt Clifton;] The Academic Impostor Behind the Pit Bull Hysteria

http://www.ombudsman.cbc.radio-canada.ca/files/documents/Ombudsman%20review%20Merritt%20Clifton2.pdf?fbclid=IwAR37TD_D2LtLP4YYILzzDLHqovZxH08XcAK1gSTfdTBc9z3_V5wPpWbLgKI

Review by the Ombudsman, CBC/Radio-Canada French Services, of a complaint regarding an article by Bouchra Ouatik published on ICI Radio-Canada.ca on September 9, 2016, entitled Pit bulls: des données non scientifiques fréquemment citées par les médias

THE COMPLAINT

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On September 12, 2016, Mr. Merritt Clifton filed a complaint regarding the story by journalist

Bouchra Ouatik, posted online at ICI Radio-Canada.ca on Friday, September 9, 2016, entitled

Pit bulls: des données non scientifiques fréquemment citées par les médias¹.

I begin by noting that the complainant is the author of the U.S.-based website Animals 24-7, to which Ms. Ouatik's story refers, among other things. She describes Animals 24-7 as a group that publishes yearly data on the number of dog bites in Canada and the United States, and that openly campaigns for a ban on pit bulls, but whose statistics "are quite far from the truth" ["sont très loin de la réalité"], because they represent "only a tiny portion of severe attacks" ["qu'une infime portion des attaques graves"] and "contain many errors" ["comportent plusieurs erreurs"].

I should also mention that the complaint was written in English, that the reply from French Services News and Current Affairs management was in that language, and that the correspondence between Mr. Clifton—who resides in the United States—and journalist Bouchra Ouatik was also entirely in English. In the original version of this review, which I wrote in French, I included my own translations of these elements of the file. In this English translation of the review, the original English texts are quoted. In case

of doubt regarding statements attributable to me, my French text prevails. Whenever the complainant, the reply from French Services News and Current Affairs management, or the correspondence between the complainant and the journalist are quoted, the original English versions prevail.

I now turn to the contents of the complaint, which includes a series of email exchanges between Mr. Clifton and Ms. Ouatik, all dated Thursday, September 8, 2016, the day before her article was posted on ICI Radio-Canada.ca.

The complainant asserts that “[m]any of her [Ms. Ouatik’s] errors and distortions should be self- evident just by comparing the correspondence to her published report.” “For example,” he writes, “I track fatalities and disfigurements, not just ordinary dog bites which may receive stitches, a matter Bouchra Ouatik completely conflates.”

“Also very significant,” he continues, “is that Bouchra Ouatik did not even ask for the annual totals of dog attack deaths I have compiled, but purports to deny the accuracy of my data by comparing the AVERAGE I have compiled from 1982 to present to data from another source for the single year 2008!

¹<http://ici.radio-canada.ca/nouvelle/802064/donnes-non-scientifiques-anti-pitbulls>

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“If Bouchra Ouatik had asked for the annual totals, she would have seen that the numbers I have recorded have tracked steadily upward from about 10 per year in the 1980s to more than 40 per year over the past decade.”

Mr. Clifton finds that “[o]ther significant errors are evident in the questions Bouchra Ouatik did not ask. For instance, despite the claims of breeders, which Bouchra Ouatik unquestioningly amplified, the Cane Corso is NOT ‘an Italian dog that has existed since ancient Roman times’ [. . .].” In his opinion, it is “rather a mastiff variant absent from the historical record until breeders began advertising it for sale in 1995.”

Lastly, Mr. Clifton asserts, “Bouchra Ouatic [sic] did not acknowledge, if she even bothered to research the matter, that much of the information she cites from the pro-pit bull side of the issue was funded by the pro-pit bull organization Animal Farm Foundation and/or its several subsidiaries.”

THE REPLY FROM FRENCH SERVICES NEWS AND CURRENT AFFAIRS MANAGEMENT

On October 12, 2016, Ms. Hélène Leroux, Chief Editor of the program Découverte, replied to the complainant in a long email message accompanied by nearly 25 references to studies of dog attacks. She began by describing the purpose of the written article that led to the complaint:

[To read the complete article please click the link below;

http://www.ombudsman.cbc.radio-canada.ca/files/documents/Ombudsman%20review%20Merritt%20Clifton2.pdf?fclid=IwAR37TD_D2LtLP4YYILzzDLHqovZxH08XcAK1gSTfdTBc9z3_V5wPpWbLgKI

Now to DogBite reports to pit bull attacks. It this historical list mistaken or intentionally slanted?

PBLN made a cursory effort to confirm the information contained in the "historical list." There were errors. Were they simple mistakes or an intentional slanting of the facts to support an agenda?

Court documents proved that an attack on an Illinois jogger in 2003 did not involve a pit bull dog;

A New Jersey resident did not die as a result of a dog attack according to a medical examiner's report and the dogs who were initially suspected of killing the resident were returned to their owner;

A 2001 account of a pit bull actually involved English Bulldogs according to a report from Animal Care and control;

A young victim that DBO says was killed in a pit bull attack in 2001 actually strangled by the tether of the dog, not the dog itself;

A Florida case from 2000 involving a toddler.

According to the Alachua County Sheriff incident report obtained by PBLN, "the dog which bit the victim, a Labrador/mastiff/rottweiler mixed breed name RED was in fact NOT a pit bull."

A case of a young child in California involving an unchained Rottweiler was incorporated by Lynn on her list based on Merritt Clifton's report;

A fatality for SC was listed by DBO as a pit bull.

In fact, a report issued by the Fairfield County Sheriff's office, the Clemson Veterinary Diagnostic Center conducted a necropsy on the dog and clearly described it as a mixed breed;

Alexandria Reeves, a 4 day old infant, is on the list as the victim of a fatal dog attack.

However, the San Jose Mercury News and Houston Chronicle Archives stated the victim was treated for cuts and bruises at a nearby hospital and released, according to Lt. Robert Armstrong.

In all, more than 17 cases were confirmed not be a pit bull or inconclusive as the breed or type of dog. In one case the victim did not die from the dog attack, and in one instance, the attack was not related to the dog at all. These were deaths dbo claimed were killed by pit bulls...that were never retracted. But if there was (their version of a Pit Bull) within 2 miles of an attack they count it as death by pit bull...The coroners report is the final report...not some failed online psychic who makes a living off of fear mongering ignorance..

James Chapple -February 9, 2007, was attacked by 2 dogs identified by the media as "pit bulls."

Mr. Chapple received severe injuries but fully recovered and was discharged from the hospital. On May 17, 2007, Chapple was found dead in his bed. The Shelby County Medical Examiner (Case nos. 2007-1177) listed the cause of death as hypertensive and atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease. Dog bites were neither the cause nor a contributing factor in the death of Mr. Chapple.

Rita Pepe's death was from natural causes...died of kidney failure

Nancy Newberry- died as a result of advanced atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease..dog bites were not found to be the cause of death..nor a contributory factor.....

More links debunking DogBites claims;

The dangerous dog debate

Breed bans are popular, but do they make the public safer?

<https://www.avma.org/news/javmanews/pages/171115a.aspx?fbclid=IwAR2j6ZpKD6vmJ6liOyYsnVlzzgrYiT1LLRxf3ejA5B2AV2JD8Q7KtAdfUjA>

The Truth About Dog Bites And Dogsbite.org

<https://adbadog.com/truth-behind-dogsbite-org/>

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<https://adbadog.com/truth-behind-dogsbite-org/?fbclid=IwAR1xAKjVEedqiP6McCQP5kwcBIXiuvS-mMw uIACtvajcprsBY UPI4r3w0>

[Merrit Clifton;] The Academic Impostor Behind the Pit Bull Hysteria

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Dogsbite.org using non pit bull fatality for their agenda

<https://caoimhinism.wordpress.com/2017/11/06/dogsbite-org-using-non-pit-bull-fatality-for-their-agenda/>

Debunking Dogsbite.org

<http://www.nopitbullbans.com/pages/debunking-dogsbiteorg/>

You need to believe that imagination is stronger than knowledge. Get your facts first, never give up on what you really want to do. Facts are numerous, but the truth is one. Knowledge comes, but wisdom lingers. – Shorty Rossi, Ladies & Gentlemen.

Creating a strong voice against stereotyping and stigma. We do not seek your pity and don't appreciate your prejudice. We are here to help one discrimination case at a time through education, enlightenment and to fight, if necessary, for the underdogs of the world.

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