

## Dog Owners Irresponsible

I don't know about anyone else, but I'm getting really sick and tired of hearing story after story about pit bulls attacking children. Just last week, a young Chicago girl who was waiting for the bus was attacked. It took two adults to get the dog off of her. Apparently the dog was upset at her for waiting for the bus, perhaps jealous that this little girl was going to school to get an education and he'd be nothing more than a stupid, brute of a dog.

This story isn't uncommon. A quick Internet search reveals lots of stories of pit bulls mauling children and adults. There is, however, one common thread in all of these stories that seems to be prevalent. That thread is one of an irresponsible dog owner.

Pit bulls seem to be considered nothing more than a menace in some areas, but there are movements to try to ban these dogs. Like the ban on smoking, there has been some success with citywide bans on pit bulls in various parts of the country.

If these dogs are used responsibly by their owners, they shouldn't have an opportunity to kill people. You've heard gun advocates say that, "Guns don't kill people, people kill people." I wonder if we can get pit bull supporters to start a campaign that says, "Dogs don't kill people, people kill people." Of course, try selling that campaign to the parents of 15-month-old Javlyin Anderson of Conhetta, Miss. She was killed by the family dog ... a pit bull. So, what's one to do if you have a dangerous pit bull?

You could always do what Baptist Minister Robert O'Neill of Aurora did with his accomplice Steven R. Jones. Last spring, they used a sledgehammer to euthanize a pet pit bull because they claim it was showing aggression toward other animals and children. I suppose that if you are looking to save some money, a sledgehammer is somewhat less expensive than taking your dog to a vet to be euthanized. Of course, there is always the issue that using a sledgehammer is cruel and inhumane, and you'll probably get arrested.

Parker the pit bull, however, did survive the beating. Unfortunately, Parker had to be euthanized due to the extent of his injuries. I'm guessing that being on the other end of the sledgehammer, Parker probably would have eventually taken his aggression out on a human being sooner or later anyway. Nobody, man or beast, takes that kind of beating and doesn't consider revenge.

As for the Baptist Minister and his friend, they have to pay a fine, do some community service and are on probation. I'm not a religious man, but Proverbs 12:10 doesn't seem like a bad idea.

## **Proverbs 12:10**

**A righteous man regardeth the life of his  
beast: but the tender mercies of the  
wicked are cruel.**