

Enforce dog laws

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Homewood -- My heart raced as I read "Open wounds: The enduring agony of a pit bull rampage."

As someone who has been attacked by a dog (who was not a pit bull) as well as being someone who is a mother of three children, my reaction was like that of many readers--horror and anger.

The solution, however, is not breed-specific legislation. All dog owners must be held more responsible for their pets. And there is one law that I have seen ignored all too often in Chicago and its various suburbs: keeping dogs on a leash in public spaces--always.

I have lost count of how many times I've seen dog owners ignore this simple rule, especially in parks that are meant for young children. While most comply, those who don't put kids at risk.

This is why I limit my outings to parks and leave immediately when I see a dog roaming without a leash, even if the owner is nearby.

The city needs to crack down on dog owners who let their dogs roam free. I was attacked by a dog in a park. The owner, instead of trying to control her dog and stop him from chasing me, kept screaming, "He only wants to play with you!"

All dogs are prone to some level of aggression, especially when agitated.

Unfortunately it seems that a number of dog owners assume that because their pets are docile at home, they will remain so outside. As we know, this is not the case.

Keeping everyone safe is not only the job of police officers, it is the responsibility of every Chicagoan.

Let's make sure dog owners do their part.

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