

FEAR VS. FACT

Dogs in the District of Columbia

FEAR:

I am in danger of being killed by a dog in the District of Columbia.

FACT:

There have been no fatal dog attacks in the District of Columbia within the past 45 years (1965-2009).

FEAR:

We have a dog bite epidemic in the District of Columbia.

FACT:

In 1970, there were 3351 dog bites reported in the District.

In 2007 there were 183.

District of Columbia Department of Health

FEAR:

Dogs are causing more serious injuries than ever.

FACT:

Only ten (10) of the one hundred eighty-three (183) bites reported in 2007 were classified as severe.

District of Columbia Department of Health

FEAR:

Pit Bulls are responsible for the severe injuries in the District of Columbia.

FACT:

The ten (10) severe bites mentioned above were inflicted by nine (9) different breeds of dog.

District of Columbia Department of Health

**We are in far more danger from bicycles, swimming pools . . .
and each other . . .than we are from dogs.**