

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT



Fatal Dog Attack

The NCRC has investigated fatal dog attacks dating back to the 19th century. The overwhelming majority of incidents have been the result of a tragic combination of human actions or inactions: owners had not afforded their dogs, irrespective of breed or type, the opportunity to interact with humans on a daily basis and in positive and humane ways.

Fatal dog attacks have always been vanishingly rare; though sensationalized news coverage creates the impression such incidents are more common than they actually are.

Rather than rely on news accounts, we obtained the information below through official sources:

Date: April 4, 2005
Location: Wayne County, Michigan
Victim: Cassidy Jeter, 6-year-old, female

Circumstances: The mother of the victim had moved out of a row house, abandoning her deceased boyfriend's two dogs in the basement. The dogs were left without food or water and had, in desperation, eaten whatever objects could be found there, including: pieces of plastic, cardboard, plant material, rubber bands, and rat poison.

It was never determined how the dogs were finally able to escape from the basement, but upon their escape they attacked the victim as she was walking through the alleyway on her way to the backyard swing.

Family dog or Resident dog: Resident: Dogs abandoned in basement of vacant row house
Number of dog(s) involved: Two: male intact, female intact

Classification of Incident:

Criminal Charges:	No
Unsupervised child:	Yes
Accidental:	N/A
Other:	Extreme animal abuse, and abandonment, Dogs suffering from rodenticide poisoning.

Breed attribution: Pit bull type dogs
Determined by: Consensus among authorities by visual inspection only