

DOG FACTORS

Dog-specific factors that were examined in the study include breed, age, gender, current rabies vaccination, current license, activity prior to biting, and prior history of biting.

PRIMARY BREED

The breed of a dog may influence whether or not it is likely to bite and how severe the bite is. Some breeds are larger and some breeds are recognized as being more aggressive than others.

It must be pointed out that the results of this study do not take into account the actual number of each breed of dog living in El Dorado County, because those numbers are not known. The larger the number of any breed of dog living in an area, the more likely that there will be bites occurring in that breed but this may not necessarily represent the true risk of being bitten by that specific breed.

What is known nationally is the popularity of specific breeds and the breeds that are most likely to bite. The following table shows the top ten most popular dog breeds in the United States in the year 2000 as reported by the American Kennel Club.

DOG BREED	NATIONAL POPULARITY RANKING
Labrador retrievers	1
Golden retrievers	2
German shepherds	3
Dachshunds	4
Beagles	5
Poodles	6
Yorkshire terriers	7
Chihuahuas	8
Boxers	9
Shih Tzus	10

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the ten dog breeds that are most likely to bite are shown below.

DOG BREEDS MOST LIKELY TO BITE (NATIONWIDE)

Pit Bulls
Rottweilers
German shepherds
Huskies
Alaskan malamutes
Doberman pinschers
Chows
Great Danes
St. Bernards
Akitas

Of the 287 sample cases, 40 (13.9%) did not report a primary breed of the biting dog. For the 247 that did report, there were 52 different primary breeds identified. The results are shown in the following table.

Breeds of Biting Dogs in El Dorado County Study

PRIMARY BREED	FREQUENCY	% OF BREEDS REPORTED (n = 247)
Labrador	50	20.2%
German Shepherd	34	13.8%
Rottweiler	24	9.7%
Chow Chow	13	5.3%
Akita	11	4.5%
Pitbull	10	4.0%
Queensland Heeler	9	3.6%
Australian Shepherd	8	3.2%
Mixed Breed	8	3.2%
Husky	6	2.4%
Dalmation	5	2.0%
Poodle	5	2.0%
Border Collie	4	1.6%
Jack Russell Terrier	4	1.6%
Staffordshire Bull Terrirer	4	1.6%
Alaskan Malamute	3	1.2%
Beagle	3	1.2%
Cocker Spaniel	3	1.2%
Doberman Pinscher	3	1.2%
Llasa Apso	3	1.2%

Collie	2	0.8%
Golden Retriever	2	0.8%
Mastiff	2	0.8%
Samoyed	2	0.8%
Scottish Terrier	2	0.8%
American Eskimo	1	0.4%
American Staffordshire Terrier	1	0.4%
Australian Cattle Dog	1	0.4%
Australian Kelpie	1	0.4%
Bernese Mountain Dog	1	0.4%
Cavalier Spaniel	1	0.4%
Chihuahua	1	0.4%
Coyote	1	0.4%
Dachshund	1	0.4%
Elkhound	1	0.4%
English Pointer	1	0.4%
Fox Terrier	1	0.4%
German Short Haired Pointer	1	0.4%
Hound	1	0.4%
Kuvasz	1	0.4%
Pekingese	1	0.4%
Pug	1	0.4%
Rhodesian Ridgeback	1	0.4%
Shar Pei	1	0.4%
Sheltie	1	0.4%
Siberian Husky	1	0.4%
Skye Terrier	1	0.4%
Springer Spaniel	1	0.4%
Rat Terrier	1	0.4%
Walker Hound	1	0.4%
West Highland Terrier	1	0.4%
Yorkshire Terrier	1	0.4%
TOTAL:	247	100%

DOG AGE

Of the 287 sample cases, 144 (50%) did not report the age of the biting dog. For the 143 that did report the dog's age, the results are shown in the following table. Dogs of any age can bite, but the average age of the biting dog was 4.6 years. The number of dogs of each age who are living in El Dorado County is not known, so the risk of being bitten by any specific age of dog is not known.

DOG'S AGE	FREQUENCY	% OF CASES REPORTING (n = 143)
Under 1 year	3	2.1%
1	15	10.5%
2	19	13.3%
3	25	17.5%
4	20	14.0%
5	21	14.7%
6	9	6.3%
7	9	6.3%
8	2	1.4%
9	8	5.6%
10	2	1.4%
11	3	2.1%
12	3	2.1%
13	2	1.4%
14	1	0.7%
15	0	0
16	1	0.7%

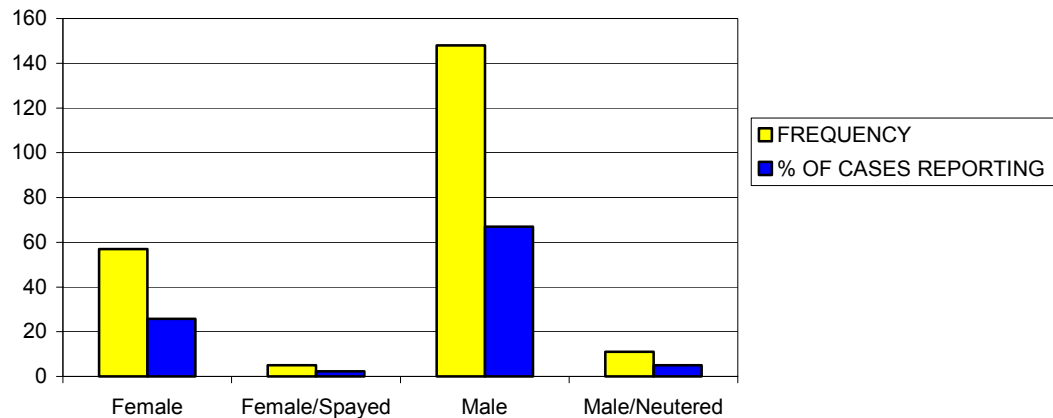
DOG GENDER

It has been recorded in previous studies conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that intact dogs (those that are not spayed or neutered) are more likely to bite than neutered/spayed dogs. The findings of this study show similar results.

Of the 287 sample cases, 66 (23.0%) did not report the gender of the biting dog. For the 221 that did report the dog's gender, the results are shown in the following table and graph. The gender of all dogs living in El Dorado County is not known, therefore, the relative risk of being bitten by any specific gender is not known.

DOG'S GENDER	FREQUENCY	% OF CASES REPORTING (n = 221)
Female	57	25.8%
Female/Spayed	5	2.3%
Male	148	67.0%
Male/Neutered	11	5.0%
TOTAL:	221	100%

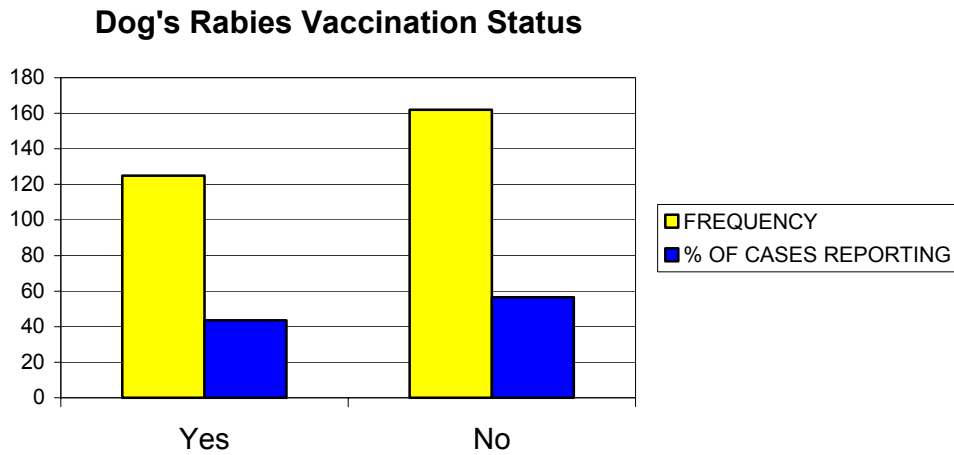
Dog's Gender



CURRENT RABIES VACCINATION

All of the 287 sample cases reported whether or not the biting dog had a current rabies vaccination. The results are shown in the following table and graph. The total number of dogs that are living in El Dorado County is not known nor are the numbers that are and are not vaccinated. Therefore, the risk of being bitten by a dog with or without current rabies vaccination is not known.

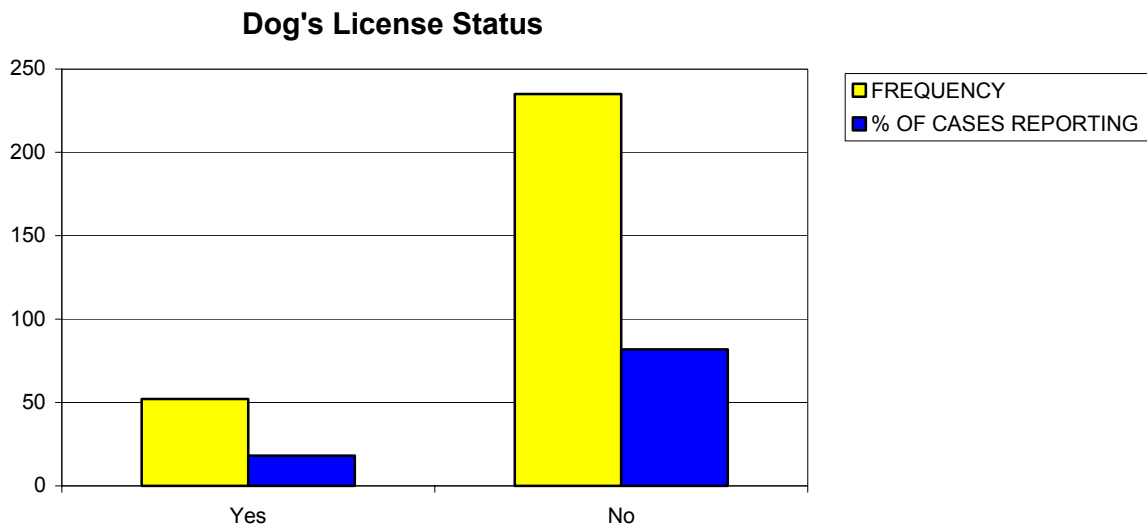
RABIES VACCINATION	FREQUENCY	% OF CASES REPORTING (n = 287)
Yes	125	43.6%
No	162	56.4%
TOTAL:	287	100%



CURRENT DOG LICENSE

All of the 287 sample cases reported whether or not the biting dog had a current dog license. The results are shown in the following table and graph. The total number of dogs who are living in El Dorado County is not known, therefore, the risk of being bitten by a dog with or without a current dog license is not known.

DOG LICENSE	FREQUENCY	% OF CASES REPORTING (n = 287)
Yes	52	18.1%
No	235	81.9%
TOTAL:	287	100%



DOG ACTIVITY

Of the sample cases, 122 (39.0%) did not report the activity of the dog prior to biting. For the 175 that did report the activity, the results are shown in the following table.

DOG ACTIVITY	FREQUENCY (n = 175)
Playing	38
Running	29
Resting	24
Growling	22
Walking	16
Dog fight	12
Barking	7
Eating/drinking	7
Broke containment	4
Jumped and bit	4
Ran off owner's property to bite	3
Being groomed/petted	2
One incident each for the following: Sick, Attacked when owner's front door was opened, Getting into car, Jogging with owner, Killed raccoon and bit when approached, On porch, Protecting owner	7
TOTAL:	175

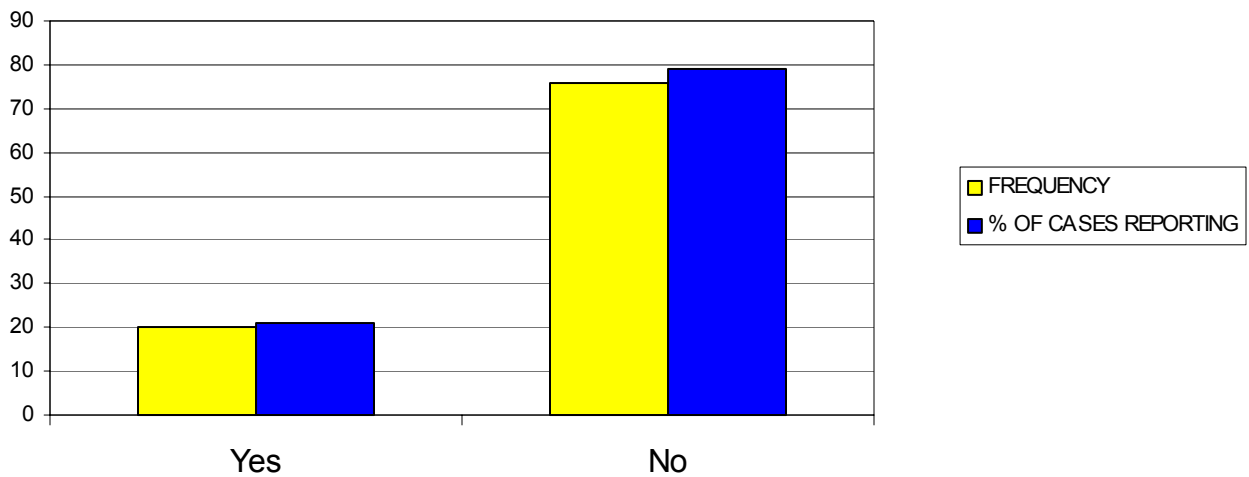
PRIOR HISTORY OF BITING

In dealing with biting dogs, their quarantine and disposition, El Dorado County Animal Control complies with El Dorado County Ordinance Code, Title 6 the purpose of which is “to regulate the control and humane treatment of animals within the boundaries of El Dorado County for the protection of the safety and welfare of the public. (Ord. 3692 §1, 1987)” To view complete county ordinance codes, visit the El Dorado County Counsel web site at www.co.el-dorado.ca.us/counsel.html.

Of the 287 sample cases, 191 (66.6%) did not report whether or not the biting dog had a prior history of biting. For the 96 that did report the prior biting history, the results are shown in the following table and graph.

PRIOR BITES	FREQUENCY	% OF CASES REPORTING (n = 96)
Yes	20	20.8%
No	76	79.2%
TOTAL:	96	100%

Dog's Prior History of Biting



DOG FACTORS RELATED TO THE SEVERITY OF THE BITE

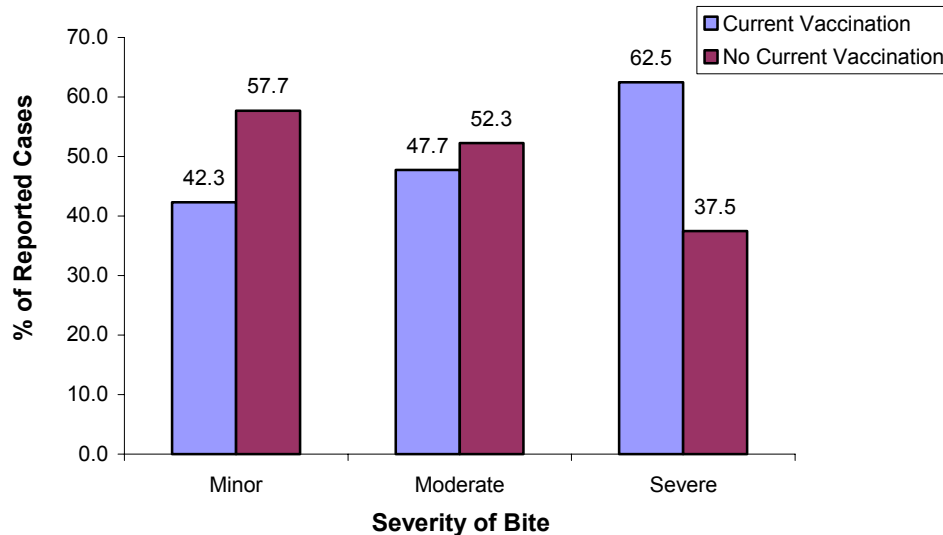
Two dog factors were examined as they related to the severity of the bite: rabies vaccination status and dog gender.

Rabies Vaccination Factor

The first factor that was examined was the current rabies vaccination status of the biting dog. For 260 (90.1%) of the 287 sample cases, both the vaccination status and the severity of the bite were known. The following table and graph show the results.

Severity of Bite	Current Rabies Vaccination	No Current Rabies Vaccination	Total:
Minor	88 (42.3%)	120 (57.7%)	208 (100%)
Moderate	21 (47.7%)	23 (52.3%)	44 (100%)
Severe	5 (62.5%)	3 (37.5%)	8 (100%)

Severity of Bite & Rabies Vaccination Status



Dog Gender Factor

The second factor that was examined was the gender of the biting dog. For 204 (71.1%) of the 287 sample cases, both the dog's gender and the severity of the bite were known. The following table and graph show the results.

Severity of Bite	Female	Female Spayed	Male	Male Neutered	Total:
Minor	48 (29.4%)	1 (0.6%)	108 (66.3%)	6 (3.7%)	163 (100%)
Moderate	4 (11.8%)	2 (5.9%)	27 (79.4%)	1 (2.9%)	34 (100%)
Severe	2 (28.6)	0 (0%)	4 (57.1%)	1 (14.3%)	7 (100%)

