



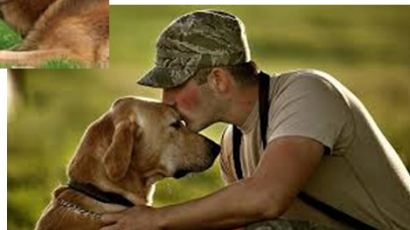
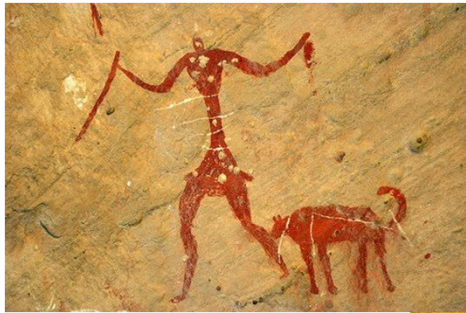
Daniel Stewart  
South Africa

## The Importance of dog bite prevention education



Valencia – Spain  
Animal Health 2016  
26 -27 September 2016





Symbiotic relationships



Conflict between humans and dogs



## What are the stats on dog bites?

### Annual dog bite figures

KZN South Africa – 67000 dog bites annually (\$4.2 mil)

USA – 4.5 Mil dog bites with 855000 seek medical care (\$18200)

UK – 52000 dog bites

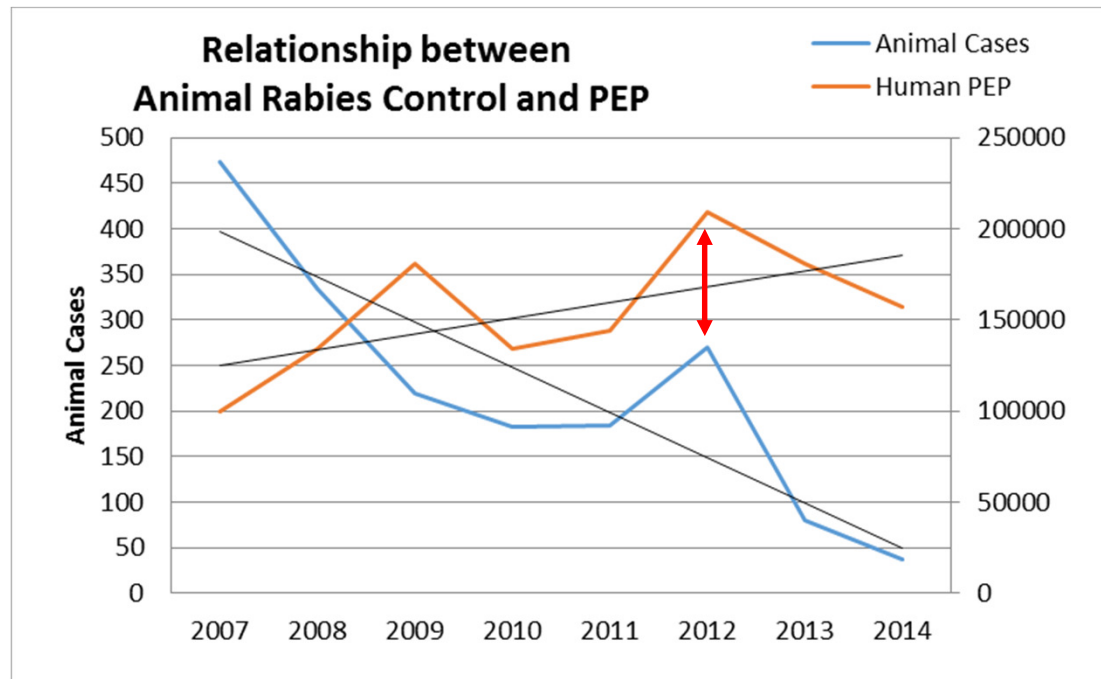
Globally 55000 people die of Rabies Annually

DALY (Disability-Adjusted Life Year) = ?

10's of Millions of dog bites annually – WHO website

## By 2030 No more human deaths caused by dog mediated Rabies

Awareness increases treatments increase



..... the following questions were be asked:

- Why do dogs bite?
- What human behaviour elicits bites?
- How can these behaviours be avoided?
- Can bites from rabid dogs also be avoided?



Generally dog bites are not merely caused by a rabies infected dog but rather by multi factors of human, environmental and dog behavioural influences



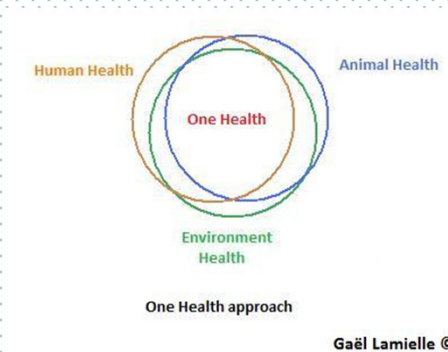
Is..  
dog bite prevention  
education  
important?



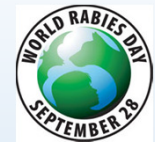


# ONE HEALTH

Better health for people – less injuries – less time away from work – less suffering  
Better health for the dog – less antagonistic behaviour – less abuse  
Better health for the environment –  
less conflict between dog and human = better environment





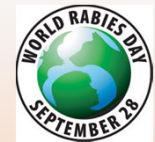


# One health

## Human aspects that influence dog bites

- Alcohol
- Drugs
- General human aggression
- Lack of respect
- Lack of understanding

*Causes dog bites*



# One health Dog aspects that influence dog bites

- Abuse
- Resource guarding
- Trained aggression
- Breeding
- Incorrect socialisation

*Causes dog bites*



# One health Environmental aspects that influence dog bites

- Lack of community engagement
- cleanliness
- Historical acceptance of bad behaviour
- Cause and effect (action vs reaction)

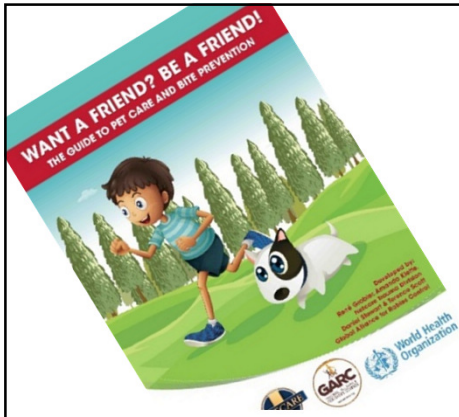
*Causes dog bites*

Is..  
dog bite prevention  
education  
important?



# Why treat when you can prevent?

Dog Bite Prevention education is not new.....



## 5 tips to prevent dog bites

- 1** Dogs can be your best friends, but sometimes when we are angry or scared we might bite. Let's learn to live together responsibly and safely to prevent being bitten.

**Don't disturb me or frighten me, particularly when I am eating or feel up.**

  - Don't disturb me when I am eating my prey, in a cage, behind a fence or when I am asleep or ill.
- 2** **Keep away from me when I am angry or scared.**

  - When I am angry, I will show my teeth.
  - When I am scared, my tail will be between my legs and I will try to run away.
- 3** **Don't move if I approach you when I am not on a lead.**

  - Stand still like a tree trunk.
  - Eyes full on, cut up and stay as still and floppy as a rock.
- 4** **Approach me slowly and quietly.**

  - Ask my owner or your parents/guardian for permission before you touch me. Ask me if your hand/feet are too close to me. When you stroke me, stroke my back first.
- 5** **If a dog bites you, act quickly. Wash the wound with soap and water and look for a first aid centre.**

  - Remember to tell your parents that you were bitten. Tell them which dog bit you and where you were when it bit you.

Rabies is a disease that kills people and dogs. If a dog has rabies and it bites you it can give you the disease. If you are bitten something when the dog that bit you barked like and getting medical help can save your life. Don't disturb, molest or kill the dog. Reward your parents, teachers, friends and everyone you know for the best way to stay safe is to make sure all dogs are vaccinated against rabies year.



## HOW TO AVOID BEING BITTEN BY A DOG



**IF BITTEN:**

- Immediately wash thoroughly with soap and running water for 10 minutes
- go to the hospital!

## Dog bite prevention day in May





# Why treat when you can prevent?

Dog Bite Prevention education is not new.....

we need to stand together, adapt, recreate new education concepts that will

## Build:

- better relationships
- holistic healthy humane dog experiences
- responsible community dog ownership
- Mutual respect



.....*How do we change?*

....How do we change this perception?





Anything is .....



**possible**

## Who do we target ?

- Schools – collective audience / future champions
- Education departments
- Adults – parents/dog owners/influential community leaders
- Private sector – funding and community responsibility
- Human health – private and government
- Animal health – private and agriculture
- Animal welfare organisations



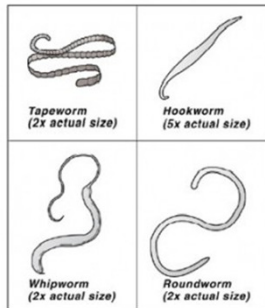


It is NOT just children  
It is NOT just dog owners

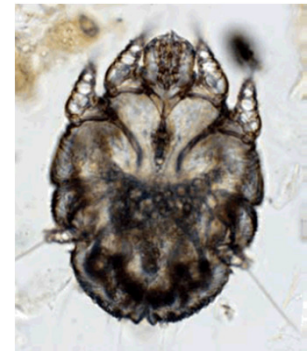
**Its very one of us**



# While we are Educating on dogs bites ....why not look at Other diseases or parasites and animal health issues



- Rabies
- Echinococcosis
- Leishmaniasis
- Bartonellosis
- .....
- .....





Education is the most powerful weapon  
which you can use to change the world

*Nelson Mandela*



*It always seems impossible  
until its done*

*Nelson Mandela*

**Thank you**



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