

Jeff Borchardt

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East Troy, WI 53120

2-4-14

The Honorable Paul Ryan
1233 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515 Washington, DC 20515

Dear Honorable Congressman Ryan

My name is Jeff Borchardt and I am from East Troy, Wisconsin. On March 6, 2013, my 14 month old son, Daxton Borchardt, was killed by two Pit Bulls in a vicious 15 minute attack. Since losing my son in such a horrific way, I have been researching the issue of canine related deaths. Before March 6th, I knew very little about dogs in general, especially about breed specifics. I fully believed that only dogs raised poorly or who were abused would ever harm a person. Daxton was killed by his babysitter's dogs. I have known the babysitter for years and I watched her raise her dogs. Her dogs were very much loved and well trained. In every sense of the word, they were raised "right". I trusted her and the dogs around my son. My biggest concern was that due to their size they could easily knock my toddler over and he could be injured. As a parent, I thought he was safe while I was away at work. I now realize that everything I thought I knew about dogs was wrong. This was especially true about this particular breed. These dogs attacked their beloved owner to get to my son and kill him. They launched this attack suddenly, without provocation and could not be stopped. All the love and training they had was useless on that day. My son is gone.

I now live in a world where I receive hate mail almost daily, am constantly told that I am somehow to blame for my son's death, and that this is a rare occurrence. Through my journey for the last 11 months, I have learned many things about animal activists, dog behavior, dog breeds, and myself. I have found comfort in other victims and now see clearly that my son's death is not a rare incident. Every year an average of 30 people are killed by dogs and about ½ those people are children. Last year my son was one of the 16 children killed. I was shocked to discover that there is not a government agency that tracks canine related deaths.

The CDC tracks every kind of death, with the exception of canine related ones. They did track these types of deaths, but suddenly stopped in 1998. I cannot come to a logical

conclusion as to why. My only thought is that animal activists put pressure on them to stop. I am consistently told by animal activists that the CDC does not track canine related deaths because they are so rare and that dog breeds are not a factor when it comes to fatalities. One of the last reports the CDC did release about the issue did include the findings that Pit Bulls and Rottweilers were responsible for the majority of severe attacks and deaths. Currently, the only people trying to keep track of these deaths are Merritt Clifton of Animal People and Colleen Lynn of Dogsbite.org. The information the CDC could collect on the matter could change how canine related incidents and fatalities are viewed, and essentially assist in saving lives.

Please help me understand why my government is failing me. Why does the CDC view all sorts of other deaths as important to track, but not canine related ones? Why does my government not care about my son and the brutal attack that he endured? Mr. Ryan, I am turning to you as a citizen of Wisconsin and as a fellow father, please help me find the answers I need. I know that I will never get my son back, but to find some sort of peace, I need my government to acknowledge that he existed and mattered. The number of deaths is currently at 383. My son, Dax, was the 358th American killed by a pit bull in recorded history. He was the 211th DBRF (Dog Bite Related Fatality) since the CDC abandoned the issue in 1998.

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue, and would like to see the CDC to begin to track this epidemic of dog bites and to ensure accurate recording and reporting of the incidents of dangerous dog related deaths.

Sincerely,
Jeff Borchardt
Daxton's Friends for Canine Education and Awareness



Daxton's Friends

for Canine Education & Awareness

You are cordially invited to attend
our **Launch Party & Fundraising Event**

THUR **03 | 06 | 14** 7 - 10

Mayslake Peabody Estate
1717 31st Street - Oak Brook, IL 60523

Please R.S.V.P by Feb 20th, 2014
Purchase Tickets
www.DaxtonsFriendsLaunchParty.com

Daxton's Friends for Canine Education & Awareness' goal is to serve as a resource for healthy canine pet ownership, and advocate for public safety and animal welfare. Through education, promotional vehicles, and providing resources, we aspire to function as an authority on these topics and serve our communities. Having applied for our 501(3)C status, we will strive to provide honest and unbiased information as a nonprofit.

Daxton's Friends was formed in honor of Daxton Borchardt, who passed away on March 6, 2013 due to severe injuries sustained in a dog attack. Through our organization, we educate the public about the importance of understanding dog breeds and how, with proper education and pet care, the number of dog-related incidents can be reduced.

Striving to serve as a resource for the canine community, Daxton's Friends attempts to provide the most current and updated information available. Relying heavily on media coverage and established canine-related organizations, we pledge to do our best to provide factual information and research. In addition we will also leverage information from real life events, striving to be responsible philanthropists.

To learn more about us, please visit:

www.DaxtonsFriends.com

We welcome feedback and invite you to share your thoughts about our organization. Please e-mail us at:

DaxtonsFriends@gmail.com

