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Mauling Death of Boy by Dog Spurs Warning; Safety: Animal control officials say attacks on children are 'epidemic.' Family had bought the pit bull for protection. [Home Edition]

Los Angeles Times - Los Angeles, Calif.
 Subjects: [Animal bites](#), [Public health](#), [Fatalities](#), [Babies](#)
 Author: JOSEPH TREVINO; DOUGLAS P. SHUIT
 Date: Mar 2, 1999
 Start Page: 1
 Section: Metro; PART - B; Metro Desk
 Text Word Count: 1120

Abstract (Document Summary)

A pit bull's fatal mauling of a 14-month-old boy in his South Los Angeles home prompted city animal control officials Monday to issue broad warnings about what they described as a major public health and safety threat to the city.

(Gini) Barrett said a survey last summer by the agency indicated that as many as 44,000 abandoned or runaway dogs roam Los Angeles streets. Many of them are considered vicious, and the largest number--as high as 40%--are believed to be pit bulls, she said. About 20% are Rottweilers and chows, which also are considered dangerous. "Having a pit bull in the home is like having a loaded gun. Would you leave a child alone with a loaded gun?" asked Jackie David, spokesperson for the Department of Animal Services.

Payaso, one of two pit bulls owned by Fily (Araujo)'s family, was seized by animal control officers and will be put to death. The second dog was removed from the house by a relative. Both dogs, about a year old, had grown up with Fily, said Silvestre Araujo, the boy's grandfather.

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Dog Kills Toddler

Published: March 2, 1999

LOS ANGELES, March 1— A 14-month-old boy was fatally mauled on Sunday by his family's pitbull.

The boy, whose name was not disclosed, was attacked by the dog in his backyard. Paramedics who responded to an emergency call took him to Los Angeles County-U.S.C. Medical Center, where he died.

It was unclear what provoked the dog, which was seized by animal control officers.

By the family's account, this was the first time the animal had attacked anyone, Officer Joe Estrada said.

A version of this article appeared in print on March 2, 1999, on page A17 of the New York edition.

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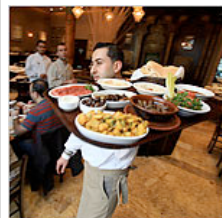


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NATION IN BRIEF

Two children killed by pit bulls

BYLINE: From our news services

DATE: March 1, 1999

PUBLICATION: The Atlanta Journal and The Atlanta Constitution

EDITION: Journal

SECTION: News

PAGE: A5

MEMO: Final

Two children were **killed in pit bull** attacks Sunday, and police are considering charges against the owner in at least one of the deadly maulings. Eric Dukes, 6, of Savannah was mauled **by** his stepfather's dog, which somehow got out of the family's fenced-in

backyard, police said. Police believe the boy may have been trying to get the dog back behind the fence. He died at Memorial Medical Center. The dog is in the custody of animal control officers and police said they would consult with the district attorney to determine whether charges would be filed against the dog's owner, Joe Powell. In Los Angeles, a 14-month-old boy died after being mauled **by a pit bull** in his yard Sunday night. Authorities said the attack was so vicious the dog tore some of the flesh from the toddler's face. He was also bitten on the neck, arm, chest and shoulder. No charges had been filed Sunday night.

Deadly strep infects 11 in Chicago

A deadly form of strep bacteria has infected 11 people in the Chicago area, killing five of them. The Illinois Health Department and the Atlanta-based U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are searching for the source of the strep A infections, officials said. The CDC says about 10,000 to 15,000 people in the United States develop the illness each year, and about 2,000 die. The most recent case, involving an elderly Aurora man, was diagnosed Friday, Kane County Medical Director Dr. David Lucks said Sunday.

'South Side Rapist' captured in N.M.

A nationwide hunt for a suspect dubbed the "South Side Rapist" after more than two dozen rapes in eastern Missouri has apparently ended in the parking lot of a New Mexico motel. Dennis N. Rabbitt, 42, was arrested Sunday morning **by** Albuquerque police after a short foot chase. He had apparently been living at the hotel since mid-November and gave officers a false name but his real social security number. Police stumbled on his trail after the mother of a 15-year-old former runaway found Rabbitt's phone and hotel room numbers in her daughter's room.

Schwarzkopf honors Gulf War dead

Under light rain and an overcast sky, retired Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf and Kuwait's ambassador to the United States placed a wreath Sunday to honor the U.S. soldiers who died in connection with the Persian Gulf War. The ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia, attended **by** about 300 of the victims' family members, marked the eighth anniversary of the Gulf War's end.

Cancer-causing toxins high in Los Angeles

Despite improved air quality in the Los Angeles Basin, residents still are breathing unusually dangerous levels of cancer-causing pollutants, according to a ground-breaking congressional study being released today. Although California has made strides in reducing hazardous air pollution, the report found cancer-causing toxics at levels 426 times higher than health standards established **by** the 1990 federal Clean Air Act.



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