GEORGIA CASES INVOLVING CHAINED DOG FATALITIES & SEVERE DOG ATTACKS

Since 2013, two children have been killed by tethered dogs in the US.

Since 2003, more than 450 Americans—mostly children—have been injured or killed by chained dogs. Many more attacks go unreported.

**December, 12, 2012, WORTH COUNTY, GA** - The victim suffered injuries ‘from his neck to his feet’. While walking around looking at a property listed for rent he was attacked by three dogs. Michael Towell received multiple bites on his arms and his legs. One of the dogs appeared to have a broken tie-out cable around its neck.

**July 18, 2012, Moultrie, GA** - child was bitten - When animal control arrived, the white bulldog was in the road, but it kept out of reach the animal control officer’s catch pole, police reports said. The dog led the officials around the house several times before it ran into the woods. Ivalissa Hood of Thomasville reported that the child was bitten on the left calf. When the dog’s owner, Chancey Harris, arrived home, he told them that the dog was chained when he left for work. He was issued citations for an unleashed dog and vicious dog at large, police reports said.

**June 4, 2012, Savannah, Georgia:** James Harris Wrenn was knocked down and bitten on the hand by a chained pit bull. He then went to his truck, got a pistol, and shot the dog to death

**December, 2011, Lowndes County, GA** Fatality, 40-year-old
Misti Wyno was brutally attacked and killed by a dog that was chained in the next-door neighbor's backyard but broke free.

**January 24, 2011, McCormick, GA, Fatality, a 9-year-old** McCormick girl was killed Saturday by a family dog while visiting her grandfather’s home in the Modoc community. Kristen Lee Dutton, a fourth-grade student at Meriwether Elementary School was pronounced dead at the Medical College of Georgia Hospital Saturday. According to reports from the McCormick County Sheriff’s Office the dog, the 98 lb. Akita, bit the young girl in the neck. The dog was on a “runner” in the yard, when he attacked her. The girl’s grandfather reportedly found her lying in the yard about 15 minutes after she was attacked. The grandfather had purchased the dog three weeks earlier.

**Feb. 3, 2011, Albany, GA, young boy mauled by chained pit bull**

A 6-year-old boy was attacked by a pit-bull. The mauling left the child with serious injuries after neighbors say the dog bit the child’s neck. It happened in Mitchell County not far from the Dougherty County line. The 6-year-old lived in a mobile home on Briarwood Rd. We
spotted four other dogs in the yard on Sunday. A neighbor who lives on the same road didn't want to be on camera but told us what he's heard from family members. "First I was told the kid wasn't going to make it, then I talked to someone else they said he'll make it, but he may not be able to speak again," said Unidentified Neighbor. Dylan was taken to Phoebe then transferred to the Medical Center of Central Georgia, he now faces a long recovery. According to the Sheriff's Office the **dog that bit the child was chained up but the child got too close**. The dog has been taken away. Right now there are no charges in the case. While the dog was secured, Mitchell County Investigators tell us the county currently has no leash ordinance. Dylan Spinks is good condition at Medical Center of Central Georgia.

**March 12, 2010, COLUMBUS, GA, A dog attack left a 6-year-old girl badly hurt**

"He was on a chain and he had came up and bit me," says Destiny Joseph. That's how 6-year-old remembers yesterday's terrible ordeal."When I had grabbed him and I was coming back the other dog had grabbed my shirt."It all happened Thursday evening when the Josephs' dog ran out of their gate and Destiny ran after him. According to Destiny's father, as soon as Destiny grabbed her dog, the neighbor's pit bull attacked her. Chad Dalton says, "The dog grabbed her by the back of the shirt and pulled her down and bit her."That's when another neighbor saw what was happening and got involved. Dalton says, "The neighbor up the street from me, she grabbed the dog off of my little girl."Destiny was bit six times on her head and face. She was taken to the hospital and later released. The pit bull was taken by Animal Enforcement and is being quarantined for 10 days, to figure out if the dog has rabies. According to Gary Stickles the Josephs' were also at fault. Stickles says, "The family of the victim was cited for the **dog being unattended**."

**March 3, 2009, Wayne County, GA – Fatality, 3-year old** Dustin Elijah Faulkner was killed by a neighbor's dog. According to Detective Bruce Williams of the Wayne County Sheriff's Office, the **dog had to break free from her collar on her chain** before she could attack."Basically, what happened was the little boy and his neighbor were walking between the houses away from the dogs," Williams said. "The dog that attacked could not have gotten to them if he hadn't gotten off his leash." Eli was walking with another child, a 5-year-old girl who lived next door. He got a sand spur in his foot, and was crying out as his friend tried to remove it when Tasha, the dog, suddenly broke free from her collar and attacked.

**November 11, 2009, Dog mauls 3-year-old Monroe boy**
By Robbie Schwartz, The Walton Tribune. A dog has been put down after it attacked a 3-year-old boy at a Monroe mobile home park last week. According to police reports, officers were dispatched to 1450 S. Broad Street Nov. 4 following reports a dog had attacked a small child. When officers arrived, they located the boy behind the trailer unresponsive, covered in blood with numerous lacerations to his face, according to reports. Shortly after, the boy became conscious and started to move. About 20 feet away from the victim was a pit bull chained to a doghouse that reportedly had blood on the fur around his face. "I am grateful this young child has survived an unfortunate, vicious attack by a family pet," Monroe Police Department Chief Keith Glass said. "The pet was a breed that has a bad reputation due to poor breeding habits. Pets are products of their environment and upbringing, and while dogs in this bloodline have made unwarranted attacks, the breed as a whole — properly trained — are no more vicious than any other breed." Officials are not sure what caused the accident but reported the pit bull was 8 months old and the family pet. The animal showed no signs of aggression while officers were at the scene, according to reports. The child was transported to Walton Regional Medical Center and listed to Egleston Children's Hospital where he remains in stable condition.

**September 9, 2009, Toddler mauled by pit bull**

A 2-year-old was hospitalized after she was attacked by a pit bull outside her Pilgrim Way home. According to Waynesboro police investigators, Brishonna Marshall was playing catch with some other children Saturday afternoon when the ball rolled into a nearby wooded area. *When Brishonna tried to retrieve it, she was mauled by a pit bull that had been chained to a tree.* "She was bitten eight or nine times," investigator Claude Wade said. "Mostly on her arms and legs." Brishonna was rushed to MCG Health Medical Center where she still remained Tuesday afternoon. Hospital spokesperson Denise Parrish said she was listed in good condition. Though no one has come forward to claim the pit bull, investigator Wade said there are definite indications that someone was keeping it in the woods and caring for it. While officers continue to search for an owner, the dog is being held at the Waynesboro animal shelter where workers say she appears friendly and mild mannered. "She doesn't seem like a dog that would attack someone," one employee said as she licked his hand. Workers say the dog appeared dehydrated and slightly malnourished when they picked her up Saturday. Her back and flanks are mottled with scabs and scars they believe are secondary to dog fighting or possible abuse. Police don't know what set the dog off but say the attack was so brutal the pit bull was covered in the child's blood when they found it.


A 5-year-old girl was killed by her family’s pit bull dogs in Thomasville. Monday evening in the confines of a fence marked with a sign "Beware of Dog," three dogs attacked and killed one of their owners, five-year-old Chyenne Peppers. Neighbors didn’t want their names or faces on camera but said they heard the shouting in her backyard at 105 Executive Drive."I heard some screaming and carrying on and I just assumed they were out playing," says the woman. *The Peppers own three pit bulls. Animal control says one was roaming loose*
in the yard, the other two were chained up."The child was possibly playing on the trampoline. The female dog who was pregnant possibly started the attack on the child," says Assistant Commander Melvin Johnson with the Thomasville Police Department. The two other pit bulls were close behind her. They broke free of their chains and joined in on the attack of the helpless little girl."You need to remember that a dog is a dog and its going to act like a dog especially in a pack situation and that's what these animals did," says Executive Director of the Thomas County Humane Society Carol Jones."The dogs attacked pretty much the complete body," says Johnson. Police say Chyenne’s mother, stepdad, and sister were in the house when she was attacked. But when they realized what happened, it was too late. She died at Archbold Memorial Hospital shortly after."In talking with the humane society they have received several calls in the past that they had gotten out and there had been some complaints the dogs had attacked a neighbors pet in the past," says Johnson.

October 22, 2009 Madison County, GA Amber Wilkins, 11, seriously injured

Investigators still don’t know exactly how a dog broke loose from its chain and attacked a 5-year-old boy inside a neighboring house Friday in Hull. Madison County Animal Control Officer Jack Huff plans to interview the child’s family today about the attack, which sent the boy to an Athens hospital. The boy’s mother responded quickly and pulled the 86-pound Akita off her son, preventing him from getting hurt any worse, officials at the Madison Oglethorpe Animal Shelter said."It was a head wound, bless his heart," said Tanya Pfeiffer, who was working at the shelter Saturday afternoon when the dog’s owner brought it in to be euthanized. "It was just a horrible, horrible situation. Had his mother not been there, that dog could have killed him."Just before 5 p.m. Friday, the dog got off its steel runner cable and ran into a neighboring home in the Hidden Falls subdivision off Glenn Carrie Road between U.S. Highway 29 and Georgia Highway 72, Huff said."It went right into the kitchen where the boy was and mauled him," Pfeiffer said. "The mother basically had to pick the dog up and throw him back outside."The child was taken by ambulance to an Athens hospital and released Saturday, Huff said."When you chain an animal up, you’re asking for trouble," she said. "It makes the dog more territorial and aggressive."Friday’s mauling was the 43rd dog-on-human bite called in to Madison County officials this year, Huff said. Madison County commissioners will discuss an amendment to local law Monday that would give the animal control officer the right to take dogs and euthanize them after one human attack.

April 13, 2008, Social Circle, GA Dog mauls girl, 2

Public safety officials are petitioning for the dog that attacked a 2-year-old girl Tuesday afternoon to be euthanized. Social Circle Department of Public Safety officials were called out to a duplex on Laurel Street around 2:30 p.m. in reference to a dog biting a young child. When officers arrived, a woman was carrying a small, bleeding child in her hands who was reportedly attacked by a neighbor’s Rottweiler. Emergency medical personnel stabilized the girl and transported her to Social Circle High School, where she was airlifted to
Egleston Children’s Hospital because of severe lacerations to her head and body. The child later went into surgery because of puncture wounds of her skull. Animal control quarantined the dog. According to SCDPS officials, a small group of kids were playing in front of the home when the victim wandered from the front to the backyard, where the dog was chained up. Officials are not sure if the child slipped or made her way to the dog on her own accord, but the caretaker told officials she heard a loud scream, that of a child's. When she came around to the backyard, she saw the young child’s head inside the dog’s mouth. The caretaker called for her husband, who did what he could to get the dog to release the child. The caretaker managed to pull the child from the dog’s jowls, but the dog lunged again and bit the young girl on her leg and groin area, according to reports. Capt. Ron Zara, who conducted the investigation of the incident, said initially they were deciding whether to charge the caretaker or the dog owner. The dog owner, Wilbur Pittman, 47, of 348 Laurel Drive, initially told investigators the dog was not his, that he was taking care of the dog because it was left there when he moved in, according to reports. Further investigation found three different persons who verified the dog was in fact Pittman’s and the dog wasn’t even chained up on his property but rather that of the victim’s family. “We charged Mr. Pittman because it was his dog, he knew the dog had the capability to be vicious, it was chained up on his neighbor’s yard and it caused an unsafe environment for those kids,” Zara said……

**July 12, 2007, Fatality, Girl with Down syndrome killed by Rottweiler**

The backyard gate that was supposed to be locked was ajar, the garage's back door was open. While mother Florence Pauley and her two other children slept, tiny Tiffany wandered out of the house early Thursday and into the damp morning. Nobody knows what happened next, but authorities and family members think Tiffany walked about 200 yards up the street from her wood-framed ranch home and into an unfenced yard where at least five dogs were kept. She walked to the back of the yard, past two other chained dogs to a Rottweiler on a 15-foot chain. Tiffany, 5, has a miniature French poodle of her own, and her family thinks she may have tried to pet the Rottweiler. In the coming hours, no one reported hearing barking or a child’s cry. Neighbors and police would comb the neighborhood looking for the girl with Down syndrome, but they didn't find her body until about 1 p.m. She was lying near the dog, under a tree. A neighbor helping with the search had knocked on the door of Robert Turner, who owns the dogs, and explained they were looking for Tiffany and wanted to look in his back yard. As the searchers walked around the house, Turner stepped out onto his deck."When I got right there, I saw her laying over there. I ran to her. She was just laying there," said Turner, who owns the dogs. Carroll County Sheriff’s deputies said the girl appeared to have been mauled. An autopsy will be
performed Friday. Turner said authorities took the 10-year-old Rottweiler named Foxie and the two other dogs, a Labrador retriever/chow mix and a pit bull mix. He said he was allowed to keep two other dogs because they were in kennels. She was the sweetest, loving child. "Tiffany would’ve turned six next month.

**December 20, 2006, Moultrie, GA, Pit bull mauls**

A five-year-old Moultrie boy needed more than 30 stitches and countless staples to mend serious wounds after he was mauled by a pit bull. The boy’s parents say he’s lucky to be alive after the dog grabbed him by the leg and bite his face and head more than five times. "The dog broke the chain, I ran, trying to run to my daddy’s house, the dog grabbed me by the leg, then the dog put my head in his mouth and was dragging me, Di came back then with rake," said Lashonda Hayes. While three dogs were caged, Cinnamon was just tied to a tree when she pulled loose from her chain. "He was full of blood, he had lacerations on his head, about five of them, head to toe nothing but blood," said his father Ricky Nelson. The dog is being watched by the Moultrie, Colquitt County Humane Society because its rabies shot has expired. "The rabies shot was last done two years ago, and in a case like that we have to keep the dog quarantined for 10 days," said Don Flowers, Moultrie, Colquitt County Humane Society Director. "First of all he’s going to have to get extra insurance, to cover medical bills, he’s going to have to keep it confined preferably in a cage, rather than on a leash," said Flowers. The Humane Society plans to cite the Collins for not updating Cinnamon’s shots. They say a rabies shot is only $14.00, and is a must for all dogs in Colquitt County. NyRicky is scheduled to go back to the doctor Thursday to have his wounds checked.

**Neighboring States**

**June 6, 2012, Tampa, FL, Palm River girl bitten by pit bull mix goes home:** Destiny is only 4 years old, but she understands what happened Monday. A pit bull terrier mix bit her in the face. Her family tried to keep her calm, but she was bloody and screaming. They wouldn’t let her see a mirror. Tuesday morning, Destiny McKenzie remained in the intensive care unit with two gashes on her face. On Monday afternoon, Bear was tethered with a chain. As kids played outside, witnesses said, Destiny tumbled down some stairs and into the dog’s reach. Bear attacked. He did not let go until his owner struck him on the head with her fist. Two big gashes along the left side of Destiny’s face — one by the corner of her eye, the other by her mouth — have been stitched up, along with a bite on her left hand.

**June 11, 2012 Memphis, TN, Toddler injured in dog attack Boy, 2, in extremely critical condition**
Police on Sunday continued to investigate a dog attack that critically injured a toddler in South Memphis. The boy, about 2 years old according to a police report, was attacked about 6:45 p.m. Saturday when he wandered into a neighbor's backyard in the 3300 block of Carrington Drive. Johnson said his pit bull terrier, named Cannibal, was chained to a kennel when the boy was found in his backyard. The boy was taken to Le Bonheur Children's Hospital in extremely critical condition, according to a police report. He said the child was unconscious and had severe face and head injuries.

**Oct. 25, 2012, MOBILE, Ala Girl says she was attacked chained dog.**

A Chunchula girl's family is facing mounting medical bills after her family said she was attacked by a pit bull. Lindsey Windham is your typical 11-year-old. Except, because of what she says was a dog attack last Friday, Oct. 19, she worries she'll never be able to wear a pair of shorts or a skirt again. Windham said a neighbor’s pit bull attacked her and left a gaping hole in the back of her left leg. "He grabbed my leg and, when he did, the chain snatched him backwards and it pulled me with him. He just started to attack me," said Lindsey Windham. "I was afraid I was going to die." The dog ripped through muscle and ligaments; it bit straight to the young girl's bone. "She lost a lot of blood," said Rebecca Windham. "The doctor said if we hadn't gotten there when we did and it had been another half-inch to the right, it would have gotten an artery and she would have bled to death before we got to the hospital, because we live so far away." Since the dog was chained up on its owner's property there isn't a lot the Windham family can do.

**March 9, 2012 Fatality Jacksonville, FL17-month-old killed by neighbor's Rottweiler.** A 17-month-old Jacksonville boy died today after being attacked by a chained Rottweiler when the boy broke from his mother and went into a neighbor's yard, police said. The attack that killed Dylan Andres occurred just before noon in the 1000 block of Maynard Street off Norwood Avenue, said Chief of Detectives Tom Hackney. A neighbor who witnessed part of the attack said the boy was bitten in the neck. He was pronounced dead at Shands Jacksonville hospital. He wandered into a neighbor's yard across the street and was attacked by the dog, which was chained to a pole in the front yard. "The dog had the baby in its mouth," said Golden, trembling and holding an unlit cigarette. "The baby was full of blood. It was just a tragedy." Hackney said the Rottweiler will be euthanized. He said police have no reports of trouble with that dog, though Golden said the dog chased her before.
December 29, 2011 TITUSVILLE — 11-year-old recovering after being attacked by pit bull-Girl suffered two broken arms and multiple lacerations

The father of an 11-year-old girl badly mauled by her friend's pit bull earlier this week says the sixth-grader could be sidelined by her injuries for up to a month as she struggles to recover from multiple bites and fractures to both arms. The attack happened about 5:30 p.m. Wednesday as the unidentified child was leaving a home in the 1400 block of Carpenter Road in Titusville when the 50-pound adult dog - who has no record of vaccinations - broke loose from its tether. "He got out of his collar. She was scared for her life...she was thinking she had to block her face while it was on top of her," said Allen Lockhart, the stepfather of Trinity Ciolfi."She just kept screaming."The girl was rushed to Parrish Medical Center with two broken arms and multiple lacerations caused as she struggled in vain to keep the dog from biting her. A large chunk of flesh from one arm was also ripped away by the dog, officials reported.

June 8, 2011 ANDALUSIA, AL -- A dog viciously attacked a 4-year-old Andalusia girl

The girl, who was identified as "Jazz," suffered extensive injuries to her head, face and arms. She was immediately rushed to Andalusia Regional Hospital for treatment."Apparently the children had been teasing the dog for the better part of a week, from what the neighbors reported," said Andalusia Police officer Mike Abraham with the Andalusia Police Department. "The girl wandered over, and before her brother could pull her back, she was attacked."Her injuries are pretty severe," he said. "From what it looked like, the dog might have pinned her down and attacked."Family members helped pull the animal off the girl, he said. Dennis Knight, the city’s animal control officer said the dog was chained in its owner’s yard at the time of the incident. The animal was placed under quarantine for monitoring at the city animal shelter, as required by law.

Ocala, Florida ---- A 3-year-old girl was killed after she was attacked by a dog that was chained to a tree outside her home, The child was unresponsive when emergency personnel arrived at 5:15 p.m., officials said. The attack occurred at 6540 N.E. 25th Ave. in Oak at a property marked "Haaker's Dream Bulldog Ranch." She became entangled in a chain restraining one of four dogs, Fisher said. A male dog then attacked the child. Each of the American bulldogs was chained to a separate tree inside the pen, Fisher said. "It was a bad dog attack," she said.
January 15, 2004 BUNNLEVEL, N.C. – *Fatality*, An autopsy report on a 3-year-old boy found dead in a neighbor's back yard Tuesday night in Harnett County suggests he was mauled to death by a neighbor's chained-up pit bull.

October of 2003, *Fatality*, Spartanburg County, South Carolina, Makayla Sinclair lost her life. Since that time, two additional children have lost their lives in this same county—Isaiah Smith in September 2004 and Asia Turner in May, 2005.

The map below, last updated in May 2011, shows all the dog bite fatalities (severe injuries are not included) from dogs that were tethered.

Photos of children who were attacked by chained dogs.