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Mayor's Office Discusses Preventing Dog Attacks in Indianapolis

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By [Eric Halvorson](#)
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Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson says last week's [pit bull attack on a little girl](#) motivated a discussion in his office. That could mean a new ordinance if the Mayor's office concludes that one is warranted.

Right now, Peterson says he's upset by the attack and wants to know whether his administration can do something about such vicious dogs. Dogs get the blame when there's an incident, but trainer Warren Patitz says that's not fair.

"It's always the human's fault. Dogs will do what they're trained to do and when they're in the wrong hands they're gonna be exhibiting behaviors that are gonna put children, other animals, anybody at risk," Patitz said.



Dog trainer Warren Patitz

The Veterinary News Network says insurance claims for dog bites have quadrupled in the past five years. That represents five million dog bites every year.

Patitz has seen the stories about this pit bull attacking an Indianapolis toddler last week. Mayor Peterson saw them too.



Mayor Bart Peterson

"When I saw that I just said, we cannot sit here and just pretend this isn't going on," Mayor Peterson said.

So, Peterson says his office is discussing what the city might be able to do to prevent a similar attack.

"When I see something like this, I just say, hey, wait a second, learn to love another kind of dog because this is going on and we've gotta do something about it," Mayor Peterson said.

Patitz says he'd rather have a properly socialized pit bull than an untrained poodle. "A lot more bites are happened by dogs other than your bully breed dogs. They don't do as much damage. So, they don't get reported and people shake em off."

Patitz says we need more muscle in current laws rather than adding new ones. He says dog owners need to be accountable for the actions of their pets.