

In his WEEKLY LETTER TO THE MAYOR dated December 3, 1971, the Commissioner of Health wrote:

Dear Mayor:

The City Health Department's Bureau of Communicable Diseases has announced that so far in 1971 almost 7,000 animal bites have been reported, 93% of which were dog bites. The number of animal bite reports have continued to rise in recent years and have doubled since 1959.

In a study of reported animal bites, Dr. David R. Berzon, Public Health Veterinarian in the Department, has analyzed the records to determine if the different dog breed populations in the city have any relation to the increasing number of bites. His investigation revealed that two-thirds of all dogs licensed in Baltimore are purebred; the remaining one-third are crossbreeds. Possibly because crossbreeds are more likely to be allowed to roam the streets unattended by their owners, about 45% of all dog bites are by crossbreeds.

The study also showed that of the pure breed dogs in Baltimore 29% are German shepherds, 10% poodles, 6% beagles, 5% collies, and 4% cocker spaniels. However, 64% of bites caused by purebred dogs are by German shepherds. This may be compared with 4% bites by poodles, 3% by collies, 2.5% by cocker spaniels, and fewer than 2% by beagles. It is evident, therefore, that German shepherds greatly outnumber other breeds in Baltimore although nationally, according to the American Kennel Club, they account for less than 10% of the dog population. It can also be concluded from this study that people who choose to own a German shepherd are more likely to have their pet bite someone than owners of any other breed.

What To Do If Bitten

Every animal bite should be washed immediately with soap and water and seen by a physician. The law requires that persons bitten by any animal subject to rabies report the bite to the Baltimore City Health Department, telephone 752-2000, extension 313. They should tell the Department the name and address of the animal's owner so the animal may be kept under observation to be sure it is not rabid. Stray animals, if possible, should be caught and confined. The animal should never be destroyed. The biting animal should be held in quarantine for a period of ten days. The period of detention and observation can be at the home of the owner of the animal, at a private kennel, or at the Municipal Animal Shelter, 222 N. Calverton Road, telephone 752-2000, extension 2901 or 2902.

An "Advisory on Animal Bites" giving Health Department recommendations was recently mailed to all physicians and hospital pediatric, outpatient and emergency departments.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Robert E. Farber, M.D.

Commissioner of Health

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LIA-76119

BALTIMORE CITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

STATISTICAL REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING December 2, 1971

WK. 48

WEEKLY SUMMARY OF BIRTHS, DEATHS
AND INFANT MORTALITY

	Week Ending December 2, 1971			Week Ending December 3, 1970		
	TOTAL	WHITE	NONWHITE	TOTAL	WHITE	NONWHITE
BIRTHS	N U M B E R					
Total recorded	503	270	233	584	307	277
Residents only	348	129	219	445	185	260
DEATHS						
Total recorded	302	182	120	247	163	84
Residents only	253	138	115	206	124	82
INFANT DEATHS						
Total recorded	16	7	9	6	4	2
Residents only	12	4	8	5	3	2
BIRTHS	CUMULATIVE NUMBER FOR YEAR TO DATE					
Total recorded	20,601	11,476	9,125	21,833	12,634	9,199
Residents only	14,069	5,544	8,525	14,801	6,208	8,593
DEATHS						
Total recorded	11,378	7,509	3,869	11,936	8,051	3,885
Residents only	9,187	5,530	3,657	9,692	5,987	3,705
INFANT DEATHS						
Total recorded	489	214	275	525	259	266
Residents only	380	123	257	381	135	246
BIRTHS	RESIDENT RATES* FOR YEAR TO DATE					
	16.9	12.6	21.8	17.7	13.8	22.3
DEATHS	11.0	12.6	9.3	11.6	13.3	9.3
INFANT MORTALITY	27.0	22.2	30.1	25.7	21.7	28.6

* BIRTH AND DEATH RATES PER 1,000 POPULATION; INFANT MORTALITY RATE PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS;
ALL RATES COMPUTED ON AN ANNUAL BASIS

LIA-76120

WEEKLY STATISTICAL REPORT
CASES OF REPORTABLE DISEASES, NON-RESIDENTS EXCLUDED
WEEK ENDING December 2, 1971

DISEASE	CASES			YEAR TO DATE CUMULATIVE NUMBER OF CASES	
	CURRENT WEEK	7 YEAR RANGE*		1971	1970
		HIGH	LOW		
Tuberculosis, active.....	9	16	7	480	458
Syphilis, primary and secondary.....	8	12	2	372	258
Gonococcal infections.....	188	197	30	10,085	10,380
Infectious hepatitis.....	6	13	3	298	271
Meningococcal infections.....	0	2	0	14	13
Meningitis, other.....	1	2	0	55	117
Encephalitis, infectious.....	0	2	0	1	2
Measles.....	1	11	0	17	730
German measles.....	0	2	0	49	129
Mumps.....	9	16	1	317	633
Chickenpox.....	0	10	0	281	447
Diphtheria.....	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping cough.....	0	2	0	16	14
Streptococcal infections.....	13	12	0	273	169
Poliomyelitis (paralytic cases).....	0	0	0	0	0
Typhoid fever.....	0	0	0	0	1
Salmonellosis.....	9	5	0	472	405
Dysentery.....	13	10	0	563	181
Diarrhea and enteritis.....	2	1	0	11	13
Lead poisoning.....	0	2	0	11	20
Influenza.....	0	1	0	2	5
Other reportable diseases.....	12	-	-	1,128	1,188

MORTALITY BY MAJOR CAUSES, NON-RESIDENTS EXCLUDED

CAUSE OF DEATH	CURRENT WEEK	7 YEAR RANGE*		YEAR TO DATE CUMULATIVE NUMBER OF DEATHS	
		HIGH	LOW	1971	1970
	TOTAL				
All Causes.....	253	250	158	9,187	9,692
Diseases of the heart.....	97	105	58	3,403	3,715
Cancer, all forms.....	46	48	27	1,710	1,810
Cerebral hemorrhage.....	17	20	10	629	659
Diseases of the arteries and veins.....	2	9	2	267	309
Influenza and pneumonia.....	4	9	2	193	213
Diabetes.....	9	15	3	292	322
Cirrhosis of liver.....	6	8	3	290	296
Tuberculosis (all forms).....	2	3	1	69	85
Nephritis.....	1	3	0	45	42
Puerperal causes.....	0	1	0	4	5
Malformations and diseases of early infancy.....	7	11	3	296	280
Suicides.....	1	3	0	31	73
Homicides.....	15	6	2	273	213
Accidents					
Home.....	3	5	0	99	133
Industrial.....	0	2	0	25	12
Automobile.....	3	5	0	113	115
Other public.....	0	2	0	42	54
Other external causes.....	0	-	-	45	33
Other specified causes.....	40	-	-	1,311	1,308

* THE HIGH AND LOW FIGURES SHOWN ARE DERIVED FROM THE NUMBER OF CASES AND DEATHS COMPARABLE WEEK FOR THE PERIOD 1964-1970.

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