



Dr. Ian Dunbar's Dog Fight/Bite Ratio (Official Authorized Version)

An Objective Assessment of Danger of Fighting Dogs

Establish the number of full-contact fights and the number of fights in which the victim was taken to a veterinary clinic for treatment. The ratio between # Fights and # Bites (i.e., damage done) will indicate the level of bite inhibition and whether or not the dog is dangerous.

1. Not Dangerous — Many fights but no opponent admitted to veterinary hospital for treatment. Excellent prognosis — the dog has extremely reliable bite inhibition since it has never damaged another dog in numerous fights. The dog is unlikely to damage other dogs in future fights. The dog is not dangerous. Rehabilitate pronto with oodles of classical conditioning and basic training to build dog's confidence around other dogs. The vast majority of fighting dogs are not dangerous.

2. Dangerous — Few fights but most victims admitted to veterinary hospital. Prognosis is extremely poor since the dog routinely damages others when fighting and it is extremely difficult, time-consuming and potentially dangerous to try to teach adult dogs bite inhibition towards other dogs. The dog is highly likely to damage other dogs in future fights. The dog is dangerous to other dogs and should not be taken on to public property unless muzzled. Give a copy of your determination to the owners, keep one copy for your files and give one copy to the dog's veterinarian.