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## Police Department

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## Staff Report

ITEM NO. \_\_\_\_\_

To: City Council  
From: Chief Kim Morrell  
Date: March 13, 2007  
Subject: Review of Animal Control regarding aggressive and bite dogs

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### **Discussion:**

On December 24, 2006, Mrs. McCollough was walking her dog on a leash in her neighborhood when their dog was brutally attacked and killed by a pit bull. This dog had escaped from his yard several times previously from a house several blocks away. The Animal control officers had picked up this pit bull several times and transported him home and to Hanford Animal control. This pit bull had not shown any aggressive tendencies in our prior contacts with him. The McColloughs requested that this matter of aggressive dogs be addressed by the Council.

We have researched the statistics on aggressive and bite dogs for the last two years.

#### **2005**

14 Bite dogs (3 pit bull)  
11 aggressive dogs (9 pitbull)

#### **2006**

21 bite dogs (3 pit bull)  
12 aggressive dogs (6 pit bulls)

#### **2007**

10 bite dogs (2 pit bulls)  
3 aggressive dogs (1 pit bull)

At this time a bite dog is picked up and taken to the animal control facility in Hanford for a 10 day quarantine period. We meet with the owner of each bite dog. Many times the owner of the bite dog either has the dog removed from Lemoore or put down at their choice. The state law allows the Police Department to request a bite dog's court ordered destruction if the dog has bit twice.

I do not believe a breed specific law would be effective as we have a myriad of breeds that bite. I have attached an article written by Judy Finney on the media portrayal of pit bulls.

### **Budget Impact:**

None

### **Recommendation:**

None, Council discussion and direction.