

# Dangerous Animals 2008



# Why regulate dangerous dogs?

- Each year, 800,000 Americans seek medical attention for dog bites; half of these are children. Of those injured, 386,000 require treatment in an emergency department and about a dozen die. The rate of dog bite-related injuries is highest for children ages 5 to 9 years. Almost two thirds of injuries among children ages four years and younger are to the head or neck region.

- *Center for Disease Control*

# Rules

- MN State Statute 347.50 *Dangerous Dogs* and 347.565 *Applicability*.
- City ordinance 64.110 *Dangerous and Potentially Dangerous*.



# 2006 Ordinance Amendments

## Before Amendments:

- Follow state requirements (muzzle, kennel, insurance.)
- Register with Hennepin County.

## After Amendments:

- Admin Fine.
- Increase in annual license fee.
- Hearing Fee.
- Kennel Fees.
- Register with City plus registration fee.

# 2007 Ordinance Amendments

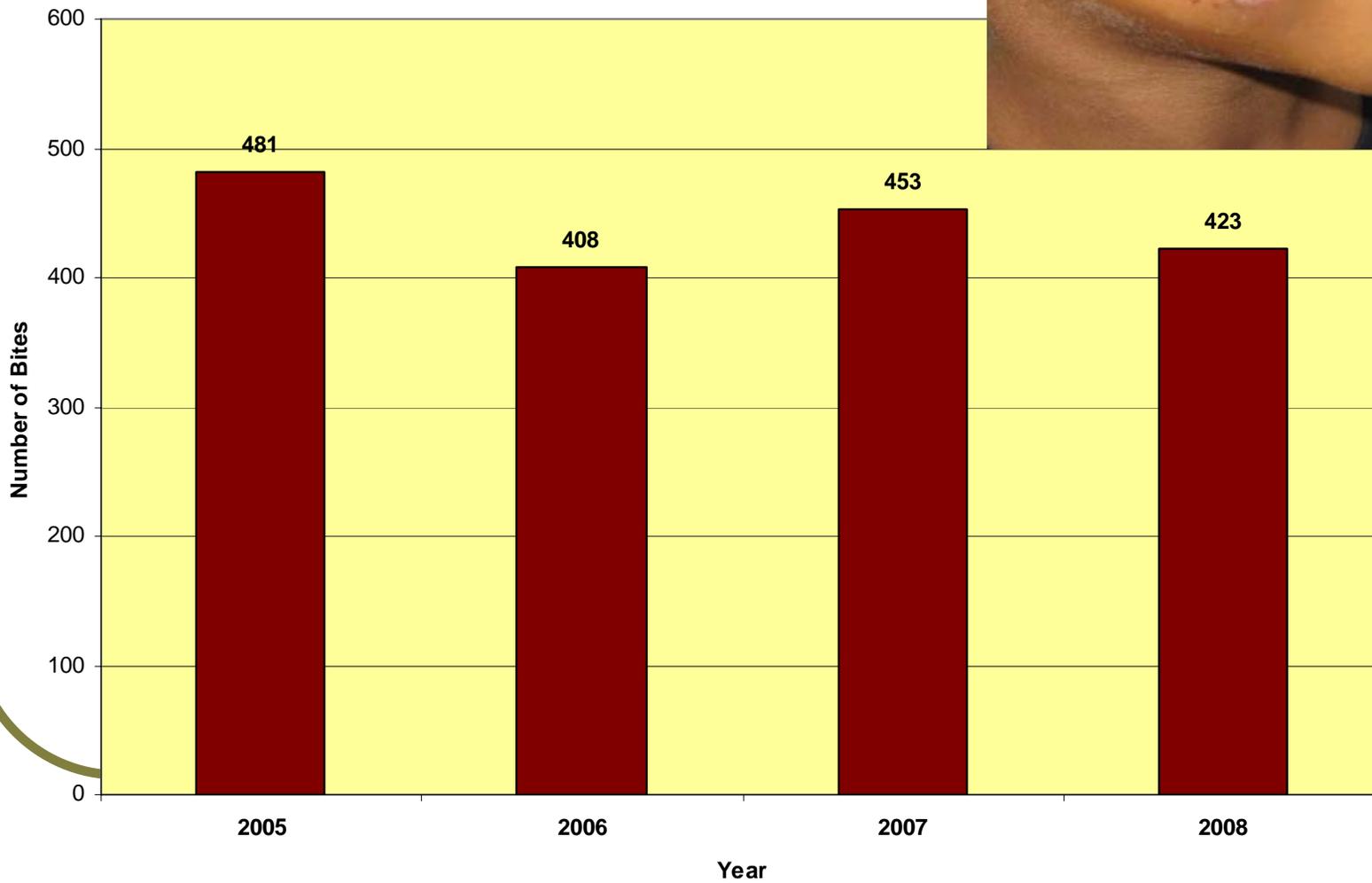
## Highlights:

- Ownership restriction for violent felons and individuals who violated the dangerous animal ordinance after having a animal declared dangerous.
- Provision for declaration of animals involved in dog fighting.
- Provision for declaration when animal shows repetitive attack behavior.
- Expedited declaration appeals process.
- Increased insurance requirement for animals declared dangerous.
- Clarified kennel requirements.

# Animal Bites



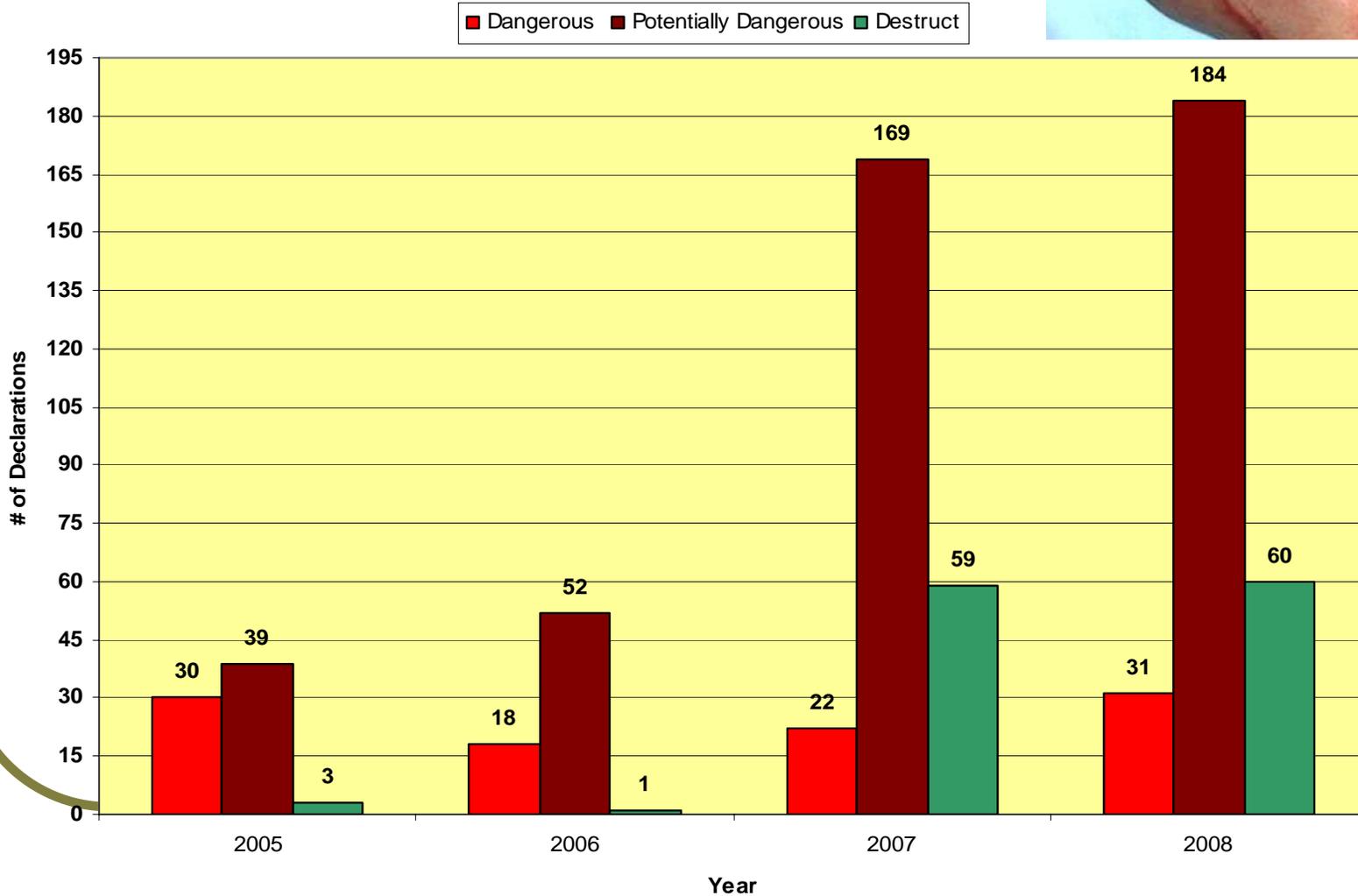
**Bites By Year  
2005 - 2008 YTD**



# Dangerous Dogs

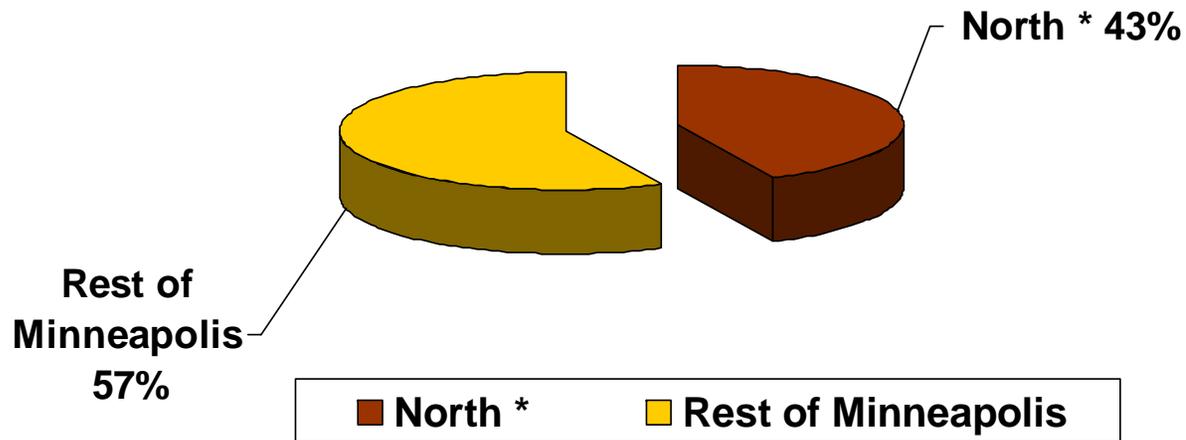


Declarations by Year  
2005 - 2008 YTD



# North Minneapolis

## Distribution of 2008 Dangerous Declarations and Destruct Orders



- 43% of serious bites and non-compliance happening in North Minneapolis.

\* North – represented by declared animals in Wards 3, 4, and 5.

# Priority One: Dangerous Animals

In 2008, MACC focused all resources on bringing all declared animals into compliance with city ordinance.

- 300 active cases for animals declared prior to 2008.
- 275 new declarations/destroy orders in 2008.



# Managing Dangerous Dogs

- Annual registration letters sent: 300
- Served owners of newly declared animals: 275
- Postal Searches: 101
- Drivers License Checks: 112
- Search Warrants Served: 51
- Administrative Citations: 133
- Criminal Citations: 23
- **Declared animals impounded: 306**
- Declared animals euthanized: 74
- Animals Registered: 134
- Biting (non-declared) animals euthanized: 62

# Case Study: Compliance of She-Ra



Declared Dangerous in 2003 for biting a child.

- Mail annual registration with new requirements.
- Request by owner for ownership transfer of dog.
- Notified new jurisdiction of declared animal in their city.
- Notification by new jurisdiction that dog was not present.
- Surveillance of prior address, documentation of dog still present.
- Secure (with City Attorney's Office) and serve (with MPD) search warrant. Seize the dog. (Kenneled in room with young child present.)
- Destruct order issued.
- Decision appealed. Appeals Hearing – destruct order upheld.
- Owner cited and dog euthanized.

# The Results

Drawing upon partners, available legal tools, and persistence.

Declaration	# Cases	# Closed	# Registered	# Open **
DES08	60	59	NA	1
DD08	31	23	6	2
PD08	184	110	67	7
DD07	7	6	1	0
PD07	95	65	28	2
DD06	3	2	1	0
PD06	24	14	7	3
DD05	2	2	0	0
PD05	30	26	2	2
DD04	9	8	1	0
PD04	32	26	5	1
DD03	3	3	0	0
PD03	42	34	7	1
DD02	12	12	0	0
PD02	41	36	4	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>575</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>20**</b>

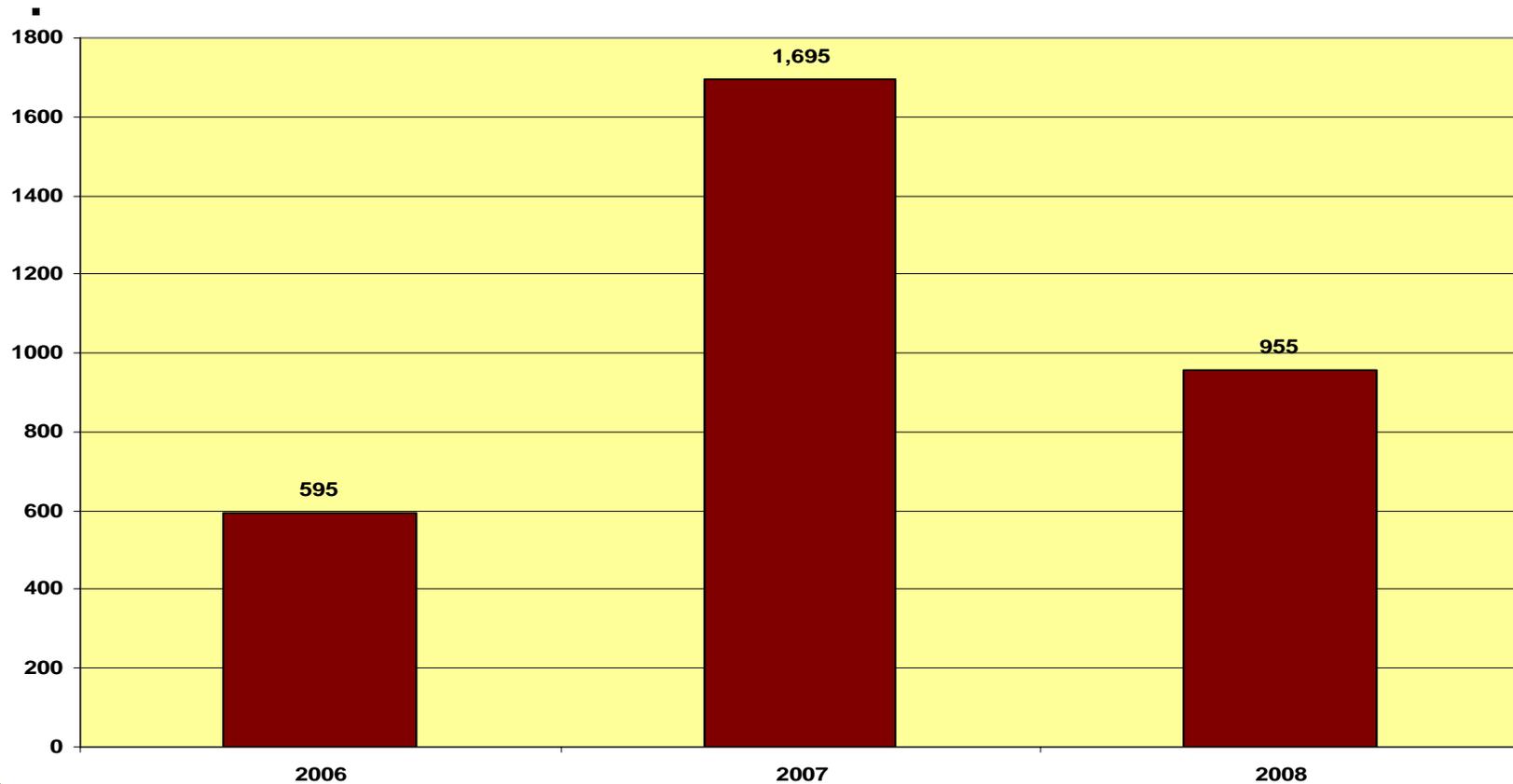


**\*\* Open Cases:**

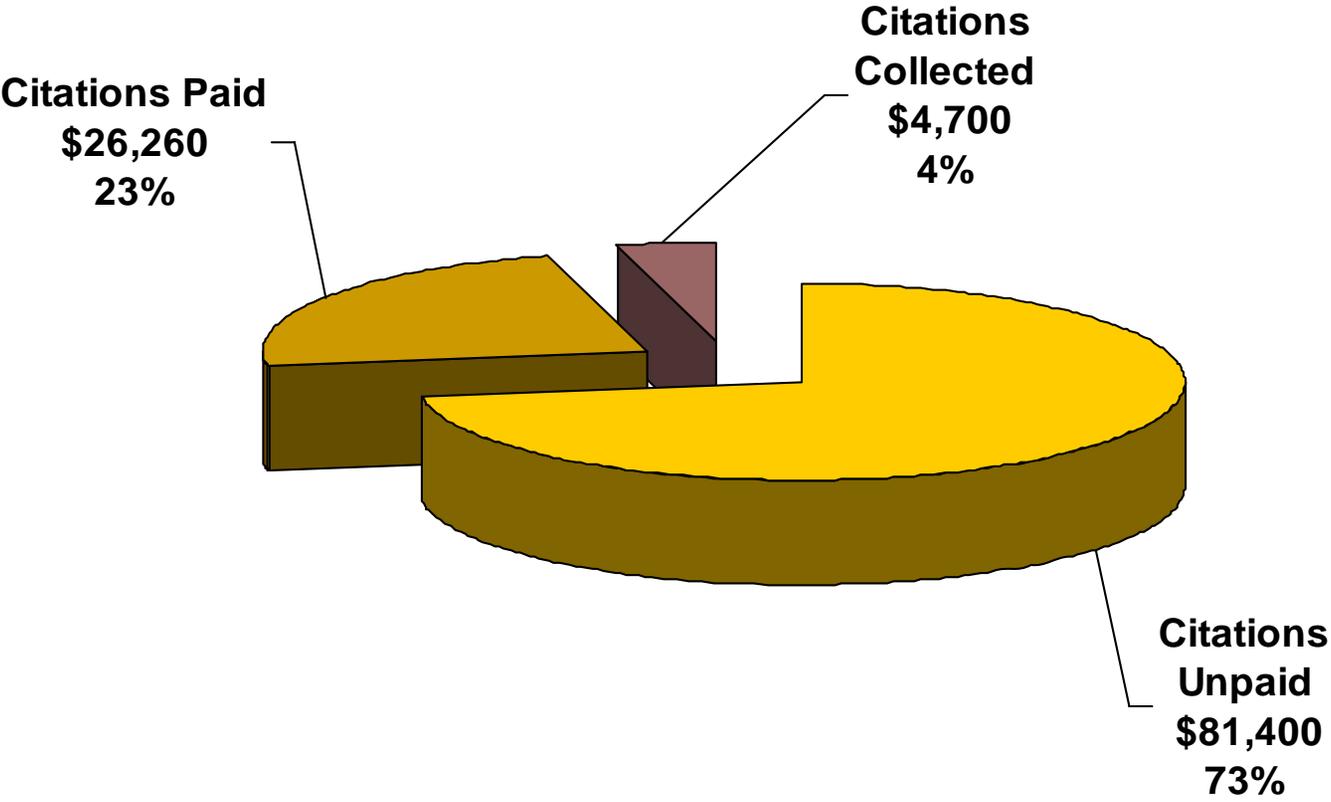
- ✓ 7 Dogs with January registration due dates
- ✓ 13 cannot find

# Administrative Citations

Number of Citations Issued  
2006 - 2008 YTD



# Collection Rate



# Next Steps

- Bi-annual compliance checks.
- Dog Fighting legislation and enforcement.
- Proposed amendments to 64.110:
  - Potential for ownership restriction for individuals who:
    - Received a destruct order for their animal and then violated 64.110.
    - Received 2 or more declarations on more than 1 dog within 2 years.
  - Require spay/neutering of animals declared dangerous.
  - Provision to declare an animal Dangerous if the owner of the Potentially Dangerous animal violates 64.110.
  - Euthanize unclaimed, non-compliant declared animals housed at the shelter without destruct order.
  - Penalty for providing false information to MACC.
  - Administrative citations for less serious animal neglect/cruelty incidents.
  - Prohibit “transfer of ownership” for dangerous dogs.