
APPENDIX A

CBSC Decision 06/07-1428 CFRB-AM re an episode of the *Michael Coren Show*

The Michael Coren Show airs on CFRB NewsTalk 1010 (Toronto) Sunday evenings from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. The following is a transcript of the first hour of the August 12, 2007 episode, during which the topic was pit-bulls.

Coren: First of all, well it happens again. Uh, this is a couple in Whitby, couple in Whitby, Ontario with their dog. They're a retired couple, a nice couple, going out for a walk and, um, suddenly this pit-bull rushes out to their, the side of a, a park and the owner, the cretin owner, because everyone who owns a pit-bull is a cretin. Like a moron, slightly less intelligent, says "pick up your dog!" And they try and save their dog. Their dog does survive. The dog is badly bitten, um, but, uh, so are they. And then the cretin owner gives them a phone number, which turns out to be a fake phone number, and leaves. Because people who own pit-bulls are not going to have any sympathy for someone who's hurt. They're just going to go out and, you know, get their cheap beer and play bingo, whatever they do. Now these, this couple, unless they're, unless they find the guy, they have to have a series of rabies shots, which are very, very painful. They really aren't very pleasant. I think you've got to take them for about a month. It's not just one shot in the arm; it goes on and on and on and it's actually rather sensitive parts of the body, the stomach and elsewhere. Very unpleasant. But I, I just, see, every time this happens, and I'd say twice a year we do this as a story, because every time another pit-bull attacks someone, you get the usual idiots who say "oh no, no, no, it's the owner's fault. The animals are fine." Well, people who own pit-bulls are moronic by nature. I've never in my life seen anyone with a pit-bull who, who was, uh, you know, worth a moment of my time. I saw a guy with three of them. I was driving here. And I drive through an area where there's quite a few pit-bull owners. And, and there were three of them dragging this guy along. And was he someone who seemed to be a really interesting fellow? You know what he was like. You know what he was like. I mean, Rottweilers: similar. Slightly less, uh, bizarre and perverse and obviously violent. But, but the same type. Of all the breeds of dog you can own, of all the breeds of dog you can own, if you buy a pit-bull, you're trying to make a statement. Which is normally quite obvious: "I'm some white trash, semi-criminal who wants you to be frightened of me." I mean, that's generally the statement that's being made. The government tried with pit-bulls. It has to go further. It just, I mean, get rid of them all now. Round them up, put 'em all to sleep. Make 'em watch *Little Mosque on the Prairie* or something. No, just round them up, get rid of them. There isn't, there's so much damage caused by them and there is no point in them being here. I don't think we have to be humane; they're not human, are they? They're animals and they do cause a great deal of damage and there is nothing positive about them. And the owners, you know, I've, at this point, anyone who tried to purchase one, I'd make that a, a criminal offence and punish them. 416-872-1010, 1-800-561-CFRB, star TALK, 8255. This is not reactive. I've felt this for, for the longest time, for years. I've done so many interviews over the years with people who've been attacked by these bloody things. And, and the arguments generally are very, very, uh, flaccid. The idea, "Well, do you know more Golden retrievers, um, there are more bites from Golden retrievers than any other, any other breed?" Yeah, of course I know that. There are also more Golden retrievers; there are loads of them, loads of them. And if a Golden retriever attacks you, wouldn't be that pleasant, but generally you're gonna be okay. Have you ever tried to tackle a pit-bull? I, I work with a guy in TV and, who got an award in, uh, in Hamilton for saving a child. He's a big, strong guy. And he took on a pit-bull. And he said it was

extraordinary because, as I think most of us would do, you know, you put your forearm around its throat. You think maybe that's the best way not to be bitten and, and, this, and he was hold-, he was trying to strangle it. And he couldn't. He said it was like just pure muscle, the neck. And it was coughing blood. It was coughing up blood, but still, it was going crazy. Every time it would relax, every time he – you know, 'cause it's tiring – every time he relaxed his grip at all, it went wild again. And the police came and he said they were completely incompetent. It was a police woman and she didn't know what to do. And he said "Well, you've got the gun. I mean, I can't hold this dog for much longer. And if I let it go, it's going to go after me and everyone here." And the owners, of course, they were the same. You know, the trash couple. Kids running around, dogs running around, whatever. "Not our fault." Other convictions, nothing really happened to them. And he saved a child. 416-872-1010. To expunge the, the, the breed from the face of the earth would be the best thing for everyone concerned. And I've never, ever even seen a pit-bull owner who was anything other than, than a moron. And I will get e-mails from people, Rottweiler owners in particular – less than pit-bull owners, 'cause I don't think they've mastered literacy yet – "These are wonderful dogs. They're just marvellous. We take them to hospitals." Do you? [laughs] Not when I'm there, you won't. Lines are open. Michael Coren, NewsTalk 1010, CFRB.

- traffic & commercial break

Coren: We can have a public hunt, I suppose, of pit-bulls. We can charge. Re-, reduce the financial problems of the City of Toronto. 'Cause other people want to hunt. Charge 'em, say, twenty bucks. Lot of pit-bulls around; we can raise some money. See, you gotta think outside the box here. This is how we're gonna solve the issue. I understand there are people who are obsessed with, with animals and they think animals matter more than people. Um, animals can be lovely and, and do a great deal of good. There is nothing positive that pit-bulls do. Another attack has taken place in Whitby. Not such a bad one this time. It goes over and over and over and over again and if you can really present me a picture of someone who wants a pit-bull, uh, because they're a model citizen, fine. Ask the cops. Uh, the pit-bull is the, uh, really the, the dog of choice, the weapon of choice, of the criminal class. Dobermans and Rottweilers, slightly less so. But they're in the same league as well. Let's get a few calls here. Ryan's on CFRB. Hello, Ryan.

Ryan: Michael, it is an absolute pleasure to hear you on Sunday night. Now, I know you only do fill-in work, so you must be covering for Marc Saltzman or George Stroumboulopoulos. Wh-, What's going on today? Who are you filling in for right now?

Coren: [laughs] And it's *George* Stroumboulopoulos, who I don't think is here tonight. Uh, no, seven 'til nine has been my Sunday show for about two years, I think.

Ryan: You're back?!

Coren: I know.

Ryan: Michael, it must be the responsible of the gov-, the responsibility of the government for not having told me. Uh, [Coren laughs] which level, I'm not exactly sure.

Coren: All.

Ryan: Now I'm pleased to report that I'm actually friend number thirteen on Facebook.

Coren: Good man.

Ryan: Hopefully this isn't a bad omen. And I'm pleased to report that I became your friend

before it was trendy to do so.

Coren: Well, exactly.

Ryan: Or Mr. Ahmadinejad might have to come over and babysit your daughter. [Coren laughs] Having said that, I remember you, uh, discussing this topic not long after the Liberals banned pit-bulls before you were fired, of course. And at the time, I remember –

Coren: Shh, shh, shh.

Ryan: Shh, shh. I, I, I'm sorry.

Coren: That didn't happen. It's like Trotsky. It never happened.

Ryan: It, it, no, of course not. I'm sorry, what, what am I doing here? Uh, yeah, are they, are, are they pets, are they companions? I don't remember whether it was yourself or a caller who coined the excellent phrase "They are nothing more than accessories to thuggery."

Coren: Well put.

Ryan: "Accessories to thuggery". And when you speak of their owners, Michael, you're absolutely right. They're a bunch of tattooed, white trash losers who look like they're on their way to a Sex Pistols concert or maybe the Dead Kennedys.

Coren: No, hold on, that's unfair. That's unfair. I, I, I, I'm a great Johnny Rotten fan. They wouldn't, [Ryan laughs] they would never have the wit to go to a punk concert. That, that, I mean, there's something almost, uh, ironic about New Wave music. No, no. They wouldn't do that. I mean, I don't know what music they listen to, really. I'm not sure if they do listen to music.

Ryan: Well, perhaps, wh-, wh-, what was that, uh, other thing your daughter wanted to get there? It wasn't a rabbit, it was a, uh?

Coren: Oh, a chinchilla?

Ryan: Yeah! May-, may-, maybe if those tattooed guys are walking around the streets with chinchillas you'd think they'd, uh, still, uh, permit the, uh, sense of intimidation and such that they do with their, uh, pit-bull terriers?

Coren: Not only – and thank you for the call, my friend – not only should we take the pit-bulls away – and I'm not, I'm serious about this – and not hurt them, but kill them. I mean, that is hurting, I suppose, but don't inflict pain on them, but kill them. Uh, and the owners, kill them, but do inflict pain. No, obviously you can't do that. Bugger. Uh, but, uh, you should punish them by making them walk around with miniature poodles or something then. They'd eat them, I'm sure. Lynne on CFRB. Hello, Lynne.

Lynne: Oh, hello, Michael.

Coren: Hello.

Lynne: Um, I think that pit-bulls are, are still being bred, at least being brought into the country, but they're being called by different names.

Coren: Mm.

Lynne: Um, for example, I, last night I was walking my very sweet collie and we encountered, um, a girl with a, an eleven-month-old dog that looks like a pit.

Coren: Yeah?

Lynne: She said, no, it's an Italian something-or-something [Coren snorts]. It came from Italy. And it had one of those very cruel chain-link collars on. I don't know if you know what I mean, but –

Coren: Of course, yeah.

Lynne: – if she yanks on it, it embeds, uh, metal pieces into the neck.

Coren: Yeah.

Lynne: Not, not breaking the skin, but certainly to control the dog she –

Coren: Sure.

Lynne: So, I'm thinking, well, it sure looks like a pit to me. And it was not friendly to my collie who ran up to him thinking oh, someone to play with.

Coren: Mm.

Lynne: So, I think that, I think that –

Coren: How old was this girl?

Lynne: -- we've still got them here, but we just –

Coren: Yeah. Lynne, how old was the girl, was the girl?

Lynne: Beg your pardon?

Coren: How old was this girl?

Lynne: Well, she was, I think, in her twenties.

Coren: And what sort of girl was she?

Lynne: Um.

Coren: Don't be kind.

Lynne: Well, she was outside smoking, outside of the house. That's all I know about her.

Coren: Well, you see, smoking outside the house, pfft.

Lynne: Yeah. With the dog. I, I, that's all I know. I don't know anything else about her.

Coren: Sounds like, sounds like Poor-Mart [laughs].

Lynne: Uh.

Coren: But you, you know, there are, and I'm not an expert in, in, in breeds of dog, but you see these, I mean, they are allowed, but they're meant to be muzzled. You frequently see them not muzzled. Sometimes they are, but often not.

Lynne: Mm hm, that's right.

Coren: Uh, but it is, I know it's going to be the slow approach and people say, well – and thank you for the call – you know, but which breeds, some will be, but, you know, the other day we were in the car and there was a bull dog and, sorry, no, a boxer, a boxer. And one of the kids said "Is that a pit-bull?" It must've been one of the little kids. And I said no. I said, look it has a certain look about it, but they're lovely dogs. They're very gentle. I mean, they're just, they're just dogs. But they're a totally different build. Completely. Even a German shepherd, which, which were the dogs that were thought to be, when I was a kid, you know, – we called them "Alsations" in Britain, not "German Shepherds" – but, but the power of that animal, if you look at a pit-bull, and Dobermans and Rottweillers are similar, they're a more established breed, but, and there are people who buy them who will e-mail me, and probably are right now, saying they're responsible owners. I think the very, the very fact that you have purchased them, that you have them means you're irresponsible. Mike's on CFRB. Hello, Mike.

Mike: Good evening, sir.

Coren: Hello.

Mike: Uh, I have a Rottweiler. And I'm not going to –

Coren: Why?

Mike: Why? Just a minute. I'm not going to slam you because I think you got a lot of valid points.

Coren: Thank you.

Mike: I work nights and my wife's at home alone. We have no kids, no near neighbours and I basically bought it for protection. I live out in the country. I would not bring my dog into the city. To me and my wife, it's the biggest loving animal, but in the same breath, I got respect for people and people's opinion and I would not bring my dog into the city or walk him in town without a leash or with a leash. Um, I, I think, uh, people's conceptions of Rottweilers, sometimes they're founded, sometimes they're not. But in the same breath, uh, I wouldn't think of a better animal to have protecting my wife when I'm in Toronto.

Coren: Why do you have to have your wife protected?

Mike: Uh, because, basically, we know there's a whole bunch of wackos out there.

Coren: Where? Where do you live?

Mike: Well, I, I live in the country, okay?

Coren: You live in Orange-, you live in Orangeville?

Mike: No, no. I actually am half an hour northwest of Orangeville. My closest neighbour on –

Coren: Yeah?

Mike: -- the west side of me is probably about ten miles and the other neighbour --

Coren: What, what, have you ever been attacked?

Mike: Have I?

Coren: Yeah.

Mike: Uh, do you put an alarm system on your home before you get broken into?

Coren: Personally I don't.

Mike: Well, you know what? Sometimes it's best to be, uh, side on the, uh, side of caution. But in the same breath, you know, I still have respect for people and I wouldn't bring my dog into town, so I, I think I do my part and, uh, in, in being a responsible pet owner.

Coren: Well, I, I, there is, there is an argument, I suppose, if -- and I thank you for the call -- if you live out in the country and you do, I mean, your concern might be, um, uh, extreme, but it's probably very noble as well. Um, and as you say, uh, better safe than sorry, so, in the country, and dogs are really supposed to be in the country. I understand they're in towns and cities, but that's, they really are animals, aren't they? They're wild animals really. Uh, but you have a dog there simply for protection 'cause you're away and, uh, your wife is there on her own and it would take the police a while to get there probably. So I understand that. I mean that's the most plausible argument for an animal of that kind. It's the only one I could really, I could really, and it's not a pit-bull and they're very unpredictable. Um, so I understand that. There's something there, yeah. I can see that. Um, should you be concerned? Well, I don't know. I don't know. I, I've heard other people, see, your argument is, is, uh, a compelling one. I've heard, I've heard, one guy called in once 'cause he had children and he was scared of pedophiles, so he had a Rottweiler or something. Well, and I remember that call quite, uh, quite distinctly. I thought he was completely insane. "I'm scared of pedophiles!" Gangs of pedophiles walking ...? There's far more chance of the Rottweiler hurting your child than, God forbid, your child being abducted by a pedophile. Lots more calls on this. We'll take it a bit further. Michael Coren, woof, woof. NewsTalk 1010, CFRB.

- commercial break

[...]

Coren: We're talking about, uh, pit-bulls, not the fact that oregano seems to permeate my home. And, uh, just take a couple more calls on this 'cause You know, the worst thing about the world really is other people, isn't it? And that's been, I mean, we, if it were just a few of us together, eh, wouldn't it? Yeah. Just a few us, it'd be fine. But it's always *other* people who are annoying and, you know, so, yeah, they *have* to walk along, being dragged along by a pit-bull. And, you know, you, you'd like to get rid of the pit-bull and the owner, frankly; if you possibly could. Just whoop, disappear. Foom, foom, they're gone. They're not going to contribute anything to soc-, oh, "everyone's equal". No, they're not. No, they're not. Rubbish. These people aren't. They're buying these animals, they're not going to take care of these animals. They have them in their homes because it's an attitude, it's a schtick, it's what they do. Rottweilers, Dobermans less so, but there's, I mean, some of the people who have those dogs too are neurotic. And I always get e-mails from Rottweiler own-, owners

associations and Doberman owners associations and associations of people who don't own, but do associate with them and it's always "You don't know! These are wonderful animals and wonderful creatures!" Oh no, they're not. And pit-bulls are even worse. Get rid of them all. Kill 'em. And, uh, hunters, huntsmen, I suppose they should be known as, charge them fifty bucks a pop -- it was twenty, it's gone up now -- fifty dollars, uh, and the money goes directly to the City of Toronto. I'm covering every base here. Christine on, uh, CFRB. Go ahead, Christine.

Christine: Hi.

Coren: Hello.

Christine: Um, a couple of weeks ago I would've been disagreeing with you. But not now.

Coren: Oh, did something happen?

Christine: I have a nice little scar on my arm.

Coren: Oh.

Christine: And my dog is terrified now. And I'm selling my house because of it.

Coren: Oh no.

Christine: And the owner, he, we're all, well, here's the story, really quick.

Coren: Yeah, go on.

Christine: We, I was walking my dog down the street. We live in a tiny little small town. Nice, I mean, a nice town, churches, schools, the whole bit.

Coren: Yeah?

Christine: And there's one road where the houses aren't so nice.

Coren: Yeah.

Christine: So I was walking down there and the owners were in the house. The pit-bull was outside by itself, not on a leash. And all of a sudden it just came charging at us, went after my dog, so, just, I don't know, instinct, I kind of stepped in the front and the dog got my arm. And it, I mean, you try to shake and that dog will not come off.

Coren: Oh, I know, I know.

Christine: And the owner came out. I guess 'cause I was yelling and I guess the owner heard me. All she did, open her back door and say "Come on, get in here". The dog went running and she shut the door.

Coren: You called the cops?

Christine: No, I called the, uh, what do you call them? Uh, the Humane Society.

Coren: Yeah.

Christine: But –

Coren: Well, they're, they're often useless. I mean, they'll care more about the animal than you sometimes.

Christine: Yeah. The dog is still there, so.

Coren: You, you, uh, call the cops. I mean, you really, which town, can you say the town you live in?

Christine: Jarvis. Little tiny small town.

Coren: Yeah, I know. Um, you know, you should call the police. You really should. Because there's a very good ch-, it wouldn't surprise me at all if, uh, the people in this house were known to them.

Christine: I wouldn't doubt it by looking at them. I mean, that's really, really judgmental to say but.

Coren: No, hey, forget judgmental. You, you just, it's an informed opinion. It's, it's very likely they're known to the police and if this attack has taken place. Of course, there's the problem, I mean, are you worried about being identified, but there's no reason why that would happen.

Christine: Yeah.

Coren: But to sell your house seems a little bit extreme.

Christine: Well, they just, they live so close. And, I mean, I like walking my dog down that way.

Coren: Yeah.

Christine: And I just don't want to live somewhere where I can't even feel free to walk my dog where I want. It's just ...

Coren: Um, do you know anyone involved in organized crime in Toronto who could kill them for you?

Christine: [she & Coren laugh] I won't answer that. No.

Coren: No, you know, I would think about it. And you know what? I would, I would just speak to friends, pause a little, I would speak to the police, just for advice. Because in a small town, the cops are probably going to give you some time.

Christine: Yeah.

Coren: And tell them what happened. And they may well say to you, um, that these people have been here a couple of months, they'll be gone in a week. Um, I wouldn't do this yet. Really what, I'd go to the cops and generally they're very, they're very good. And they will be on your side. And the fact that you've been attacked –

Christine: Yeah.

Coren: Again, I mean, did you have to go to the hospital?

Christine: Yeah, they gave me a tetanus –

Coren: Yeah.

Christine: -- and they took down the address and then the public safety people called me and all that kind of stuff.

Coren: Well, I would, I would go and, I mean, you may get a cop who's one of these sort of, you know, traffic ticket, uh, idiots, but gen-, some of them are. They're just, they're nerdy. They, they're not real cops really. But you get a good cop, a good g-, who wants the place to be, for people to have a decent time and to keep the bad guys at bay. And he or she might say to you, "Look, you know, this is the situation, don't sell your house. It's going to be okay." But I really would do that.

Christine: Okay.

Coren: You take, and good luck to you.

Christine: Thank you.

Coren: Thanks a lot. Bye-bye. It is disturbing because, and it's a fairly, relatively young woman, obviously, it's your home and it's your, the place where you go to be safe. And, um, you know, for most of us, of course, we'd be totally distraught if anything like this happened, any sort of confrontation to a normal person, whatever it happened, you know, it has an effect. These people don't care. Um, judgmental? They're probably going in, they're probably gonna get high on something or other. They probably couldn't care less. If it's not cheap beer, it's cannabis, it's cheap cannabis. And, and, uh, there's some, likely, some sort of criminal activity. Well, there is, because they have a pit-bull, not on a leash that's attacked someone. They couldn't care less. And what sort of person does that? Sorry to hear about that, really am. Uh, Lou on CFRB. Go ahead, Lou.

Lou: Hi, Michael.

Coren: Hello.

Lou: Hi, um, pit-bulls, if you look at the breed itself, the breed was built, uh, was made specifically to fight.

Coren: Yeah.

Lou: So anybody who would want this dog, it doesn't make any rational sense to have a pet like that. I witnessed a dog fight about four years ago, uh, with my kids in a park. And a pit-bull, uh, off the leash did a, owned by a, you know, owned by a teenager, did a beeline right for a, a Doberman who was being walked by his, his master. Uh, fortunately the Doberman took him down.

Coren: Mm.

Lou: It was, it was trained to, um, you know, hand-command trained, it knew what it was doing. But, you know, you don't need dogs like that. You don't need dogs like, um. Pit-bull, to me, is a useless breed. Uh, it's a breed that's made, uh, for criminal activity.

Coren: Yeah, no, that's exactly what it is.

Lou: For fighting, that's what it's made for.

Coren: Yeah, I mean, thank you. Absolutely. Dobermans and Rottweilers, they have more of a tradition and a history; there's still a problem there, though. There is still a problem. Why do people have those dogs if, what is the purpose? There are so many breeds of dog you can have that don't have that reputation and that ability to inflict pain or death. So what's the reason, the reasoning behind your purchase? "Oh, they're lovely animals". Until they're not. You know, uh, poodles gone wild. Uh, you're gonna survive. Even Golden retrievers. Berserk! But chances are, you'll be okay. Very, very difficult to fight one of these extremely powerful dogs. And they, they have a, they're bred for a purpose. Earl on CFRB. Hello, Earl.

Earl: Good evening, Michael.

Coren: Hello.

Earl: There, there is a crime rate, rate out in the country. It's, it's not, it doesn't get the publicity that crimes in the city do, but –

Coren: Mm hm.

Earl: -- bad things do happen out here. And almost everybody on our road has a dog.

Coren: Where do you live, then?

Earl: Um, way, way north of Newmarket.

Coren: How, where exactly?

Earl: Uh, have you ever heard of Tosorontio?

Coren: Well I've seen it. I, I may have gone through it. I've seen it on the, uh, on the signpost.

Earl: Uh –

Coren: Because, I mean, you, you have, uh, New-, parts of Newmarket have very high crime rates.

Earl: Oh, well, um, um, I, I, I –

Coren: And there's a town not far from it that's notorious for having problems.

Earl: Yes. I, I, I, I told the man Newmarket because he, he, he would start asking me silly questions if I told him which township.

Coren: Well, I don't think he asks silly questions, actually. I think he asks intelligent questions.

Earl: But, but, anyway, um, yes, I have a dog big enough to eat, um, pit-bulls for breakfast.

Coren: What dog do you have?

Earl: Uh, I don't think you've heard of that either.

Coren: Okay. Earl, I'm, I'm bored of you. Good-bye. Uh, and, uh, the highly sophisticated young man screening and, uh, opping tonight – he's doing two jobs for the price of one – and he does not ask stupid questions. And I've heard of many things and I don't think there's so much crime in the country that everyone has to have a large and enormous dog to protect them. Always nice to hear from you, Earl. Michael Coren, NewsTalk 1010 CFRB.

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Coren: Ooh, what was that? Last, last call I just spent on, uh, killing pit-bulls. Wouldn't it be fun? Nick, on CFRB. Hello, Nick?

Nick: Yeah, hi, Michael.

Coren: Hello.

Nick: How're you doin'? I'm going to have to agree with you on this topic.

Coren: Oh.

Nick: Because, um, I've experience first-hand, myself, uh. I was cutting hair in my salon one day, on one of my customers.

Coren: Mm hm?

Nick: And her husband had just bought her a little gift. They'd just gotten married two weeks ago and he bought her one of those little white Shih-tzus. I don't know what exactly they were, but those little tiny dogs. And he brought it into the hair salon and everybody loved it. It ran around and everything. The girl was ecstatic. I had to stop cutting her hair and everything. So a lady takes it out for a walk in the parking lot. As soon as she does that, a pit-bull runs up out of nowhere, grabs the dog in its mouth, shakes it to death and rips it open right in front of her.

Coren: Nice.

Nick: Right in front of everybody.

Coren: Was the pit-bull owner anywhere around?

Nick: The pit-bull apparently, we called the police, we called the animal rights and every-, I don't know, the animal group, whatever those people are that come and get 'em. And they said that they'd been looking for this dog in the area and he wasn't supposed to be in the area. But they cannot find the owner. They put signs up. They eventually, I don't know what happened with the dog, but they never ended up finding him that day. But right in front of everybody, watching through the window, this pit-bull just ripped to shreds this little dog.

Coren: Nick, I'm sorry you had to see that. And, uh, thank you for the call. Yeah, but, of course, there, it's not the dogs, it's the owners. Said this many times. The owners generally are of a sort, but even if you think you're a responsible person, once you buy a dog like this – and it's not just pit-bulls, other animals too – uh, then you're no longer a responsible person. And I realize that Dobermans and, uh, Rottweilers are not quite as severe, but they have a similar purpose. They have more of a history and more of a tradition, but their purpose is still

to, to kill. And if you really do need protection, I mean, if, if you happen to, you know, live in a, in a small house surrounded by neo-Nazis, uh, Klansmen, uh, and black Muslim separatists and, and general thugs, okay, maybe there's a, but do you really need a dog like that? No, generally people do not need such an animal. Do they? And they have it because of their own insecurity or lack of self-esteem or probably 'cause mommy, I don't know, didn't hug them enough. Carol on CFRB. Hello, Carol.

Carol: Oh, hello, Michael. I'm so pleased to talk with you. I got through so quickly. Um, you know, my comment is that I really agree with you about these vicious, vicious dogs. And something must done about them. But then, on the other hand, they are not the only ones. My husband and my miniature schnauzer were attacked by a Golden retriever that just exited from its backyard. And my little, little one, sixteen thousand dollars later and who is now in the animal, the, uh, Guelph University --

Coren: That, that's how much it cost to repair your husband?

Carol: No. My dog! [laughs]

Coren: Oh!

Carol: But, on the other hand, we cannot be too sure. I always feel that a large dog should be muzzled at all times. And that's my comment.

Coren: I think that's a bit harsh.

Carol: You do?

Coren: I do, because, uh, I mean, Golden retrievers, they, they, they do bite sometimes, but, I mean, a gold-, a golden, I, even a Golden retriever that's gone absolutely crazy, uh, it doesn't have the, the jaw and neck strength to inflict --

Carol: I couldn't agree with you more. But my point is that most people have always, um, accepted the fact and they all agree "a Golden retriever did this?" And nobody, I just don't think that any dog can be trusted. At any time.

Coren: You're sure it wasn't a pit-bull disguised as a Golden retriever?

Carol: [laughs] No, I don't think so. I don't think so.

Coren: Well, if you speak to vets, I mean, they may well tell you, 'cause I've heard this. I don't think it's urban myth -- and thanks for the call, Carol -- that Golden retrievers, um, they, they deal with more bites from Golden retrievers than any other animal. Of course, we have to remember there are a huge number of Golden retrievers out there. And the bites are usually, um, they can be fairly severe, but it's, it's a dog that's reacted to someone in a house. It doesn't do anything like the damage that a, a pit-bull would do or a Rottweiler or a Doberman. Those dogs in particular. You know, we used to think that, uh, a bull dog, you know, would never let go. It would attack and never let go. This is nothing, this is nothing compared to a, to a pit-bull. Joel, on CFRB. Hello, Joel.

Joel: Hey there. Um, you ever seen the English bull terrier?

Coren: Yes, of course. I'm from England.

Joel: Yeah, um, well, do you think they have just as much jaw pressure?

Coren: No, no, I don't. They're much smaller. They're nothing like the size of a pit-bull.

Joel: Oh really?

Coren: And they're not, they're not bred to be, um, as strong, but if they were, they should be done away with too.

Joel: Well, I'd say that too. But why do police use German shepherds then?

Coren: Well, they don't always use German shepherds, but when they do, they're used for lots of reasons. They, they're generally used for –

Joel: What, 'cause they bite hard when the guy's [???] –

Coren: No, no, no. You, I don't think you understand why the police use dogs. Most of what they do, actually, is to track people down. And they, and intimidate. Uh, but they can be controlled. I mean, it's a very good question, even though it might not have been posed in that way.

Joel: Well, they're still animals.

Coren: Because, because they, they can be controlled whereas pit-bulls and Dobermans probably can't be.

Joel: Yeah. Well, I –

Coren: Okay?

Joel: I think the whole thing, problem with the pit-bull and the breed –

Coren: Mm hm.

Joel: What happened to it, it, uh, like a pit-bull should look like a Lab.

Coren: Yeah, okay, thanks for the call, Joel. Uh, we're, there are lots of people calling in. I will take this a bit further. I'm not going to hang up on people who've been calling in. So, uh, we'll try and take this one to 8:00 pm. 416-872-1010, 1-800-561-CFRB, star TALK, star 8255. Uh, would it be more fun to shoot pit-bulls or their owners? No, I'm only joking. Michael Coren, NewsTalk 1010 CFRB.

- commercial break

[...]

Coren: Pit-bulls, would it be fun to kill 'em? Kevin on CFRB. Hello, Kevin.

Kevin: Hey, how are you doin'?

Coren: I'm well. Thank you.

Kevin: Just moved down to Toronto a few months ago from Northern Ontario.

Coren: Mm hm?

Kevin: And, uh, a couple of things I've noticed. Uh, you know, I thought there was a law saying that these things had to be muzzled and leashed in public?

Coren: There is.

Kevin: Ah, well, where the heck do I call to get them arrested when they're not?

Coren: Yeah. I know, I know exactly how you feel.

Kevin: You know, I live in the Don Valley 401 area and I go out walking. They're all over the place.

Coren: Yeah.

Kevin: Now, you know, I'm a Golden retriever owner. Or was until she passed away. But, you know, I know, like, you gotta be careful no matter what the dog is. The temperament of the actual dog makes a huge difference. Doesn't matter whether it's a poodle or a pit-bull. But I have to agree with you, man, the pit-bulls, they're not, they're not a good breed. You know, I might take issue with your Doberman comments, just because I had dokes, but, you know, everything else tells me there's definitely something wrong now. And what about licensing for these things?

Coren: Well, you know –

Kevin: Or any dog?

Coren: I, I know exactly how you feel, Kevin. But, well, I mean, the police, obviously, they've got to give tickets out to people, uh, who're just going to work and driving back from work. So, they can't, they can't enforce the law and make people safer. Thanks for the call. I mean, there are other things to do. But, yeah, you do, frequently, I mean, I do see them with muzzles, but I would say half the time I see them, they're not muzzled. And we call the cops? And are we really going to do that? And will the police really actually do anything? Um, "there is, uh, uh, a pit-bull without a muzzle." "Oh, okay." It's very irritating. And I've never in my life seen one and "Oh look, um, there's the Reverend Carruthers, you know, the man who works at the food bank. There he is with a pit-bull. Oh, who would have thought it? Oh, it's Jenny Wilkins, the social worker who's always trying to help people. She's got a pit-bull. Oh, I didn't know that. Isn't that marvellous? It's, it's Doctor Jenkins. He delivered our child. Here he is with a pit-bull!" No, no. It's, it's Tommy Trash. It's Tommy Trash and his tattoos. And his ugly fat wife. No. But you know the sort of people who they are. I mean, why do we pretend? They have them because they want to make a statement to you. They want to say "get out of my way, I'm intimidating." And when it's one of your kids, when it's your fourteen-year-old child taking the dog out for a walk, and you get a call that both of them are in hospital. Well, not the dog, the dog's dead. [sighs] There's no place for these things. And Michael Bryant, you know, that little guy who jumps up and down every time there's a camera around. "Look at me, look at me, look at me. I'm going to crush your cars and take away your pit-bulls." Well, he's done neither. I mean, he's completely ineffective. Appalling Attorney General. The cops put their lives on the line arresting a couple hundred people involved in, uh, gang activity. Loads of them. Well, been given two thousand dollars each because we had them in jail 'cause the Attorney General can't get them all before a judge. But he'll make a lot of noise. He's done nothing about the pit-bull stuff. Should be much harder, much more draconian. I like that word, "draconian". I don't know what it means. Robin, CFRB. Go ahead, Robin.

Robin: Hi, Michael.

Coren: Hello.

Robin: I am laughing here. Um, I have two very vicious declawed black cats that protect me.

Coren: Ohh.

Robin: Um, I am surprised that you would actually think that a pit-bull owner would call you up because they're probably right now sitting outside, um, in their lawn chairs, opening up bottles of beer with, uh, bottle openers that are attached to their key-chain [Coren laughs] because they haven't figured out how to twist the cap yet.

Coren: Oh, that's so judgmental, Robin.

Robin: Oh, I'm sorry.

Coren: They, they're people too.

Robin: [laughs] I am sorry.

Coren: I mean, not real people, obviously, but.

Robin: [laughs] I'm sorry.

Coren: Also, they would have to dial, uh, several digits in order. Which is –

Robin: [laughs] Yes, exactly. Maybe more than three.

Coren: [laughs] Robin, thanks for the call. I don't want you to sic your cats on me at, uh, at any time. But, yeah. [laughs] Shouldn't be judgmental. Oh, come on. It's wonderful being judgmental. It's such fun. No, it's not being judgmental. I mean, being judgmental is being hypocritical. That's what the term really means, isn't it? It's, you know, if I was a pit-bull owner judging other pit-bull owners. You get lot into it really. It's very judgmental. No, it's, you've just called me judgmental, well, obviously then you're being judgmental. Judgmental is, is different from judging. A judge who says you will now go to prison. Is he being judgmental or is he doing his job as a judge? To have an informed opinion about something is not judgmental; it's an informed opinion to say that, because every pit-bull owner I've ever seen has been trashy, that the vast majority of pit-bull.... And the guy the other week in, um, in Parkdale who locked the dog in the car, it was a couple of weeks ago and everyone went crazy about it. And I said, I, I, I bet you he's a real trashy guy and people said "How could you be so judgmental?" And then they saw him on TV [laughs]. I didn't get any calls after that. Uh, Charles on CFRB. Hello, Charles.

Charles: Hi, Michael, how are you?

Coren: I'm well, thank you.

Charles: Michael, I'm calling you because, uh, your show and the way you look at things is, uh, I love the way you do things.

Coren: Well, thank you.

Charles: And I'm calling just to help you on the way you look at things about

Dobermans.

Coren: Ah.

Charles: Dobermans, if you talk to anyone that knows anything about the breed, will tell you it's one of the most docile –

Coren: Yeah, yeah.

Charles: -- breeds you can purchase.

Coren: Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. Why do you purchase it then?

Charles: Bought it specifically because I live in an area where there has been all kinds of break-ins.

Coren: So Charles, you didn't buy the Doberman because it was docile, did you?

Charles: N-, well, I bought it because it was perceived, its perception is, uh, --

Coren: Yeah.

Charles: -- is why I bought it, Michael.

Coren: It's also capable, isn't it?

Charles: It can be taught to be capable –

Coren: Exactly.

Charles: There's no question about it.

Coren: And, and there are –

Charles: But that's, that's a different issue, is it not?

Coren: Well, I don't know. I mean, see, I hear this from other people. They're actually very docile. So you bought it because of its docility? "No. I, I bought it because it's capable of doing, uh, uh, a great deal of harm."

Charles: It's perception.

Coren: Well, it's not just perception.

Charles: Well, Joe, Joe Doe that walks down the street that is looking at homes to break in; I want him to know that there is a Doberman in my home.

Coren: And what –

Charles: And may he think twice about breaking into my place.

Coren: So, do you, do you –

Charles: Does, does that shine on me because of –

Coren: Do, do you have –

Charles: – my love for the dog?

Coren: Do you have a little sign on the front that says, um, “Do not break in. Doberman”? In parentheses –

Charles: [??] people spend some time –

Coren: -- “Docile, but looks awful.”

Charles: Michael, people spend time looking at homes to break into and they will know whether there’s a Doberman in that home.

Coren: Yeah, they might.

Charles: And they will choose somewhere else.

Coren: Maybe. I mean, okay. Thank you. I mean, it’s possible. Uh, but I don’t buy it, the docile thing. Uh, it can be trained to be deadly. Or you can train it to be really friendly. Uh, well, then we’re putting too much in the hands, too much faith in the hands of the owner. And, and if, and if it has the ability to be so deadly, and if crime is so bad, if we really are living in fear to such an extent, then we’re all finished anyway. Bobby on CFRB. Hello, Bobby.

Bobby: How you doin’, mate?

Coren: I’m well, thank you.

Bobby: I’m, uh, a pit-bull owner. And, uh, --

Coren: You’re not?!

Bobby: Yeah, I [??].

Coren: Oh, come on!

Bobby: Yeah, it’s a funny stor-, it’s a funny story how I, I got the pit-bull. Um, --

Coren: From Gerry Adams, no doubt. [laughs]

Bobby: No. [????] No. Uh, I adopted it fifteen years ago from the Humane Society. I didn’t know what sort of dog it was. Um, he’s, it’s fifteen now, the dog is quite old. And, uh, he’s been quite good for the kids and whatnot there. But I would, uh, I would tell people not to get a pit-bull. Uh, just the reputation and the breed should be eventually phased out, you know?

Coren: Well, the, that you would say that, it says quite, but, I mean, you have, you have, is it one or two children, Bobby?

Bobby: Two, two kids.

Coren: Are you not concerned when the pit-bull’s around them?

Bobby: No, no, no. The dog is old and all. It just lies out and sleeps, you know and, uh, --

Coren: Okay.

Bobby: And it's actually a cross-breed between, uh, something else and a, and a pit-bull.

Coren: Right.

Bobby: It, it wasn't until about a couple years later when I took her to the vet that they, they had told me what sort of dog it was.

Coren: Okay.

Bobby: Again, I would tell people not to get a pit-bull.

Coren: Well, good for, thank you. I mean, it's very honest of you that you have one. Last call, very quickly, is Mark on CFRB. Hello, Mark.

Mark: Uh, yeah, hi. I just wanted to say, all those people that, that talk about the pit-bulls and whatnot, that say they're, they're, they're great dogs. Well, every dog has the capability of being a great dog, but, uh, they're also, they have potential to be dangerous. And people don't realize that twenty per cent of what is, of what a dog learns is, eighty per cent is instinctual.

Coren: Mm, good point there.

Mark: So when they're put to the point of, um, you know, having to act on their instincts, --

Coren: Yeah.

Mark: -- they'll resort to what they're trained for. And dogs are bred, there's different breeds of dogs. If you watch dog shows, there's the working class dog and there's all these things. Well, pit-bulls were specifically bred to fight.

Coren: Yeah. Mark, thank you. I didn't, I didn't realize about those percentages, but thank you for that call. I appreciate it. Change of subject when we come back. Michael Coren, NewsTalk 1010, pit-bull free CFRB.