*Bronson*

The phone call came in shortly after having my morning coffee. I knew that my statements to the newspaper could elicit some type of return fire in my direction. Those following the case needed to know about the failure of the police to properly investigate the dog bite incident involving Bronson. The words said to me in that morning call would forever impact the clients and the cases I handle.

The caller on the phone stated that the chief of police had read my statements which were critical of his department’s investigation. It was important for me to know, I was told, that the chief knew the plate number and the year, make and model of my car. I was reminded that his city was a gateway to the major highways north of Boston and I would eventually have to drive through it. I should therefore stop defending Bronson. The decision was made, rather quickly, to continue to ‘bark back’ and defend Bronson with no chance of our surrendering. The threats still come but the work goes on.

I contended that if the police properly investigated the scene they would have found residue of the illicit pills that had been crushed up and mixed with alcoholic beverages. Bronson became fearful of the behavioral changes he witnessed among the four strangers visiting his house. Once they began yelling and wrestling *with each other*, Bronson’s anxiety manifested itself in growls and barks warning of his discomfort. When they began wrestling *with him*, he attacked. Some victims needed to be hospitalized and a cop who showed up was also bitten. The police were annoyed with me from the start since one of their own was wounded. In my practice, knowing what triggers a dog’s behavior is essential to know if he or she is a danger to the public. We can use this information to implement corrective action to greatly limit the odds of a repeat offense.

Bronson went on to suffer from kennel fright or kennel craze having to wait in a small cage for months pending a hearing. This type of prison results in the dog behaving in a manner that becomes self-fulfilling for the jailer. With so much frustrated energy building up, Bronson bit the person who was walking him. Ultimately his owner chose to euthanize Bronson after bite number five. The important takeaway is that our defense put us in a position to save his life and gave hope to what was originally a hopeless case