

SENATOR DIERKS: Sure.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: If a dog were to bite you, who would be responsible or liable, if while the dog is being treated by you?

SENATOR DIERKS: I assume that I am.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Were you aware that under the present law the owner is liable?

SENATOR DIERKS: I never really considered that. Always figured I probably did something to aggravate the bite so...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Now, let's say that...

SENATOR DIERKS: Let me tell you something,...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Excuse me.

SENATOR DIERKS: ..over 30 years I've only been bitten once by a dog.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay, let's say...

SENATOR DIERKS: And that was my fault, Senator.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay, let's say there were a veterinarian who became aware of this bill and saw an individual that he or she did not like and let the dog get loose and the dog bit that person. Who should be liable, the vet or the owner?

SENATOR DIERKS: If the dog was in the veterinarian's care, I assume he would be liable. Otherwise, it would be the owner.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: He should be or she should be, but under this law the owner would be, and the reason I wanted to ask you those questions because you are in the area of veterinary medicine and that's all I have to ask you. Thank you. Senator Schmit, would you answer a question or two?

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Schmit, have you ever owned a dog?