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Charges expected in dog attack on brothers

By [ANDREW SEYMOUR](#), Ottawa Sun

Ottawa bylaw officers are expected to lay charges against the owner of three dogs that attacked a four-year-old boy and his 16-year-old brother last Friday. Susan Jones, director of bylaw enforcement, said the city reinterviewed Robert Adams and his four-year-old stepbrother, Justin Echlin, yesterday and believe they have enough evidence to lay charges against the dogs' owner.

"Based on the evidence we have right now, charges will be laid," said Jones, adding the charges are likely to include dogs running at-large and not being licensed.

Jones said a muzzle order could also be issued if it can be proven the dogs, believed to be bull mastiffs and not pitbull terriers as originally thought, bit either boy.

Bylaw officers have yet to speak with the dogs' owner, however. That's something Jones hopes will happen today.

MEETING WITH OWNERS

Jones said the city is working with Minto -- the property manager of the area where the attack took place -- to try to meet with the owners. Jones said bylaw officers should be able to positively identify the dogs once that meeting occurs.

While the boys' mother, Susan Echlin, said she was told the dogs would be removed from the property yesterday, Minto said it didn't have the authority to do so.

Instead, the company is continuing to work with bylaw officials to resolve the issue and is "exploring remedies that are available through the Tenant Protection Act," said Vicki MacKinnon, Minto's vice-president of operations.

Robert and Justin were skating on a homemade rink between 106 and 110 Woodridge Cres. when they were attacked by three dogs.

Robert was able to beat back the three dogs off with a shovel before escaping into a neighbour's backyard.

andrew.seymour@ott.sunpub.com