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Mystery dog in weekend attack found

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By COREY YOUNG
ARGUS-COURIER STAFF

A woman who posted signs asking for help to identify a dog that attacked her elderly friend said Monday the Dalmatian's owners were found.

Lee Strauss said the Dalmatian attacked her friend, an elderly Petaluma woman in her 90s who didn't want her name and exact age given, as the woman was walking her Chihuahua along an eastside trail Saturday morning.

The woman was left with cuts and punctures and a broken bone in her back, Strauss said. The Chihuahua was bitten as the woman scooped it into her arms, and is now at a veterinarian's office, she said.

The incident happened at about 10:30 a.m. Saturday on a trail between Northstar and Lancaster drives. A girl about 12 and a boy about 7 were walking the Dalmatian on a leash, in the direction of the victim. When the dog saw the Chihuahua, it broke free from the girl and attacked, Strauss said.

The children grabbed the leash of their dog and left, Strauss said. Worried about whether the victim needed a rabies shot, she posted notices in the neighborhood and at Bernard Eldredge and Meadow schools, trying to identify the children.

She learned Monday morning who the family was and that the children had told their parents about the incident. They called the victim, whose number was posted on the fliers.

"The parents of the children said they will pay all expenses (for medical care) and were very apologetic," Strauss said.

Her friend is recovering and the Dalmatian's owners have taken the dog back to the Central Valley shelter where they acquired it, she said.

(Contact Corey Young at cyoung@arguscourier.com)

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