

Students watch as dog kills

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A D V E R T I S E M E N T

Foe, Elaine MD
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Chris Casey, (Bio) ccasey@windsortribune.com December 15, 2005

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A loose husky attacked and killed a smaller dog at Windsor's Mountain View Elementary School on Tuesday morning as a dozen students watched.

The fatal mauling happened about 10:40 a.m., just as fifth-graders began a mile-long jog around the school's athletic field.

"It was pretty horrific," said Fran Van Eron, physical education teacher. "They were shaken up, but we did the best we could."

About half the class of 24 saw the husky -- which was running loose on school grounds with a Shar-Pei -- sprint 100 yards to where a terrier stood outside the fence of its neighborhood home.

"He took off like a banshee across that field, the husky-type dog," Van Eron said.

She said the school psychologist talked with the P.E. students before they went to lunch. A letter was sent home to all parents to explain what happened. Students were never in danger, Van Eron said.

"We put the kids in the building, and we tried to separate the dogs," she said. "But once we saw the little dog was dead, we kind of controlled the dogs until animal control got there."

Cpl. Rich Higuera of Windsor police said the husky and Shar-Pei belong to the same owner, who will likely receive a dog-at-large citation. He said the vicious-dog statute will be reviewed in the investigation.

Higuera declined to identify the husky and Shar-Pei's owner, and the terrier's owner, until the report is finished today.

"Three of them were loose, running at large," Higuera said. "For whatever reason, the little one got into it with the big one and physics went to work, and the little one didn't survive the incident."

Mountain View Principal Beth Schwalm said students were kept in for lunch recess until the dogs were rounded up.

Van Eron said a tooth from the large dog went through the 3-year-old terrier's lung.

The Shar-Pei was not involved in the attack, she added.

Counseling sessions for students continued on Wednesday.