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Woman is attacked by two dogs in Martinez

Web posted Friday, March 25, 2005
By **Valerie Rowell** | Staff Writer

A 71-year-old Martinez woman who was attacked by two boxer dogs was listed in good condition Thursday at Medical College of Georgia Hospital, said Danielle Wong Moores, a hospital spokeswoman.

Grace D. Sleister, of the 200 block of Old Evans Road, sustained bites to much of her body during the attack in her Casa Bella neighborhood off Old Evans Road, officials said.

"It was bad, real bad," said Linda Fulmer, the manager of Columbia County Animal Care and Control. "She has bites to both her arms and legs and her head and face."

Mrs. Sleister told police the incident occurred at about 10:30 a.m. Tuesday when she was walking on Anneswood Drive in Martinez. She said two dogs ran from a neighboring yard and attacked her. The dogs, owned by Robert Joseph Brechtel, 60, who lives in the 200 block of Anneswood Drive, were seized by Animal Control officers.

Mr. Brechtel told police he last saw his dogs tied in the back yard, but he was inside when he heard Mrs. Sleister scream, according to a Columbia County Sheriff's Office incident report. Mr. Brechtel went outside, as did several neighbors, and saw the dogs were loose and attacking Mrs. Sleister.

Mrs. Fulmer said Mr. Brechtel can sign to have the dogs euthanized after a mandatory 10-day quarantine at Animal Care and Control or wait until the April 13 magistrate court

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hearing, when a judge will decide the fate of the dogs and any punishment for Mr. Brechtel.

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According to the American Boxer Club, boxers are generally recommended as a family guardian, walking companion, and especially a playmate and protector for children because of their playful, energetic and friendly temperament.

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"That's what has got us kind of surprised," Mrs. Fulmer said, referring to the normal friendly boxer temperament. "That just doesn't make any sense."

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Mrs. Fulmer said she does not recommend chaining dogs because if they ever get loose, dogs tend to roam.

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--From the Friday, March 25, 2005 printed edition of the Augusta Chronicle



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