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Vicious dog bites woman on neck

Victim recently had 26 cats removed from home

*By Douglas Crawl
The Daily Times-Call*

A little more than a week after David Riley got his three boxers back and finished a jail sentence imposed because the dogs had attacked a woman, one of the dogs bit another woman, according to police.

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Bruni, a 2-year-old male boxer, attacked Dacono resident Pamela Flanders on May 9 and bit her on the neck, according to the Weld County Sheriff's Office.

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Flanders has been in the news on an unrelated case. Police raided her home Feb. 25 to remove 26 sick cats they believe she wasn't properly caring for. Seventeen of the cats were euthanized because they were too sick to recover or too wild for adoption. The remaining nine are up for adoption at the Longmont Humane Society.

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Flanders was visiting David Riley's mother, Jackie, at 6028 Weld County Road 31/4 when authorities believe Bruni bit her, according to the sheriff's office.

Deputies issued Jackie Riley a citation for ownership of a dangerous dog.

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"That does not surprise me," said Susan Burke Rose, an animal behaviorist in Longmont. "Bruni's the one that was the instigator on the attack that almost killed Adam Stutzman."

Stutzman, a handler at Coal Ridge Animal Hospital in Firestone, was attacked Sept. 23 by Riley's three dogs, sending him to intensive care.

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Police had taken the dogs to the animal hospital after they attacked and bit Firestone resident Rosa Storm on Sept. 3 while she was walking her dogs, earning David Riley a vicious dog citation.

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David Riley asked Rose to evaluate the dogs for his court case and to testify that they were good animals.

Rose declined to help when she learned about the attack on Stutzman.

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She also learned that the dogs had been in trouble previously for killing a cat in Firestone.

When Riley appeared in court for the Storm case, neither the Stutzman attack nor the cat killing could be used against him.

State laws say that handlers can't seek criminal charges for bites from animals they are taking care of.

Jackie Riley was cited for the cat incident. Weld County doesn't recognize dogs in court, only owners, meaning that David Riley had no prior vicious dog convictions.

On March 4, the judge sentenced David Riley to 60 days in jail and required him to keep his dogs in a razor-fenced kennel, or muzzled and leashed when they were outside the kennel.

David Riley walked out of jail May 1 and got his dogs back from Colorado Dog Academy in Broomfield a couple days later.

A couple of days after that he told the Times-Call the dogs had been well-trained at the academy and would no longer attack people or animals.

He did not return a phone call seeking comment about Bruni's most recent attack.

Jackie Riley appears in court Thursday.

Anita Knudson, owner of Carbon Valley Animal Hospital, has one worry about the case.

Though Jackie Riley is facing her second animal charge, Knudson said Bruni was never charged individually.

"This still could be a first offense," she said.

Rose said she told a district attorney in David Riley's case that the dogs will bite again.

"If he didn't bite (Flanders), he would bite someone else," Rose said.

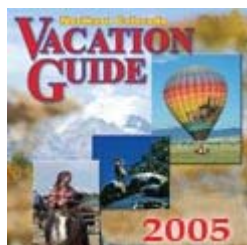
Roger Messick, executive director of the Humane Society of Weld County, wants to see Bruni put down.

His staff is holding the dog.

"This is the second time I have had the dog, and I would rather not have this dog," he said, adding that Bruni is unpredictable.

He said David Riley got off on a "minute technicality" last time, and now he hopes to see justice served.

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