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FORT MILL TIMES



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TIMES NEWS

Animal Control wants dog put down

By Jonathan Allen Fort Mill Times
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FORT MILL TOWNSHIP -- Judge David Wood, the York County Magistrate for Fort Mill, will have the final say in what happens to an English Bulldog accused of an attack and currently in the custody of York County Animal Control.

On April 15, according to a York County Sheriff's Office report, the dog jumped a fence and attacked an 11-year-old girl in a neighboring yard in Fort Mill. It also attacked an adult, Sisk Baptist Church Pastor Larry Harrison, who intervened.

Harrison said the fence is about four and a half feet high.

Last Friday attorneys Melvin McKeown and Michael Kendree filed a lawsuit on behalf of Roger Bradley, identified as the plaintiff and the Chief Animal Control Officer for York County, to request the dog be destroyed.

According to the lawsuit, "the animal...has been declared a vicious animal by York County Animal Control...on account of the unprovoked attack committed by the animal, the bodily harm caused by it, and the determination that it may endanger the health and safety of other persons or pets."

The filings also request the dog remain in county custody until the court determines what to do with the dog.

The dog's owner, identified as Dale Moore of Spandril Lane, has 30 days from April 29 to respond to the suit or forfeit.

If and when Moore responds, a hearing will likely be set 30 days after



Andy Burris/Fort Mill Times

A bull dog accused of attacking an 11-year-old girl three weeks ago remains in York County Animal Control custody. The victims of the attack want a judge to put the animal to sleep.



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his response has been filed, Judge Wood said.

According to the suit Moore has already requested the dog be returned to him after it tested negative for rabies. But some of Moore's neighbors have requested the animal not be allowed to return to their neighborhood, the suit states.

















Papers filed by the attorneys include an affidavit signed by Bradley in which he states that in the opinion of county enforcement officials the dog has exhibited characteristics that meet the definition of a "vicious animal."

A vicious animal is defined by York County Ordinance as, "any animal evidencing characteristics usually associated with abnormal inclination to attack or attempt to attack other animals or persons without provocation by the animals or persons."

According to the lawsuit the girl did not provoke the dog. She was sitting on a swing set when the animal jumped the fence, the papers stated.


The *Fort Mill Times* was unable to reach Moore before press time Tuesday.

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