

OWINGS MILLS

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May 20, 2005

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Owings Mills, MD



Unleashed dog kills dear pet

Owner fears such an attack could also kill small children in park

05/18/05

Louis Llovio

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It was the perfect spring day for a walk in the park: cloudless blue sky, temperature in the 70s. But dark shadows were not far off.

Sajid Talar, of Owings Mills, was enjoying a walk with Buddy, his Yorkie, in Meadowood Regional Park, on the corner of Greenspring Valley and Falls roads. The walk was a weekend event the two enjoyed together almost every Saturday.

This day, May 7, they stopped to enjoy an amateur lacrosse game at one of the park's athletic fields.

Then the shadow struck.

"From nowhere, this dog grabs my dog and begins shaking it back and forth," Talar said.

Talar tried to intervene, but there wasn't much he could do to stop the mauling of his six-pound Yorkshire Terrier by a German shepherd without a leash.

"People were so scared they couldn't come help me," he said.

Talar was bit on the hand trying to stop the attack before the German Shepherd finally released Buddy and ran off.

"My Buddy was bleeding so badly," Talar said, with his voice shaking. "I picked him up and started towards the hospital."

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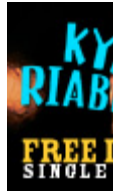
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Buddy died from puncture wounds to his lungs several hours later at Pet Plus ER Animal Emergency Center in Towson.

Talar called Baltimore County police who, with the help of witnesses, were able to find where the dog lived.

Police identified Mona Yacoub of Lutherville as the German Shepherd's owner.

According to the police report, she told the officer that she knew her dog had been running loose and she was looking for him the day the attack took place.

Several calls to Yacoub's residence were not answered.

"Park rules state that dogs are to be on leashes at all times," Kate Terry, of Meadowood Park, said. "That is the county law."

Under Baltimore County's animal laws Code Title 6, "when off the owner's properties, all dogs and cats must be walked on a leash."

Initial fines begin at \$25 for violations, and can rise to \$1,000 and 90 days in jail for repeat offenders.

In cases like Talar's, victims can fill out an affidavit of complaint - the most stringent of complaints - which is reviewed by Baltimore County Animal Control unit.

The outcome of Talar's plight "all rests on how motivated an owner is in pursuing the violation," said Charlotte Crenson-Murrow, supervisor of Animal Control.

She said Talar has an affidavit in his possession, and, based on what she has seen so far, he will sign it.

Victims may also pursue civil damages for veterinarian charges incurred during an attack, Crenson-Murrow said.

Talar, who said he has contacted an attorney, has a veterinary bill over \$3,000 at Pet Plus ER Animal Emergency Center.

But neither money nor revenge is driving him.

"After the attack I almost lost my breath thinking that this could have been one of my own children," the father of three said. "If this dog weighs 200 pounds he can kill a grown man. What would he do to a child?"

Talar is scared that a lightning-quick attack, like the attack on Buddy, could happen to another pet owner or parent. He's planning his own crusade to warn parents of loose dogs who could be dangerous. He said he plans to go back to Meadowood Park to post fliers with a picture and story about Buddy.

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"Buddy was my family. This dog killed my family," he said of the loose German Shepherd. He said he can't think of replacing Buddy right now.

Instead, he said he'll let the legal side of his story develop.

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