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### Dog kills man's bichon - By JAMI BADERSHALL

Edgar Erickson did not even have time to get the name of the other dog owner as he rushed his 12-year-old bichon frise to the veterinarian's.

The small white dog and its companion, a miniature schnauzer of about the same age, were mauled Thursday, April 28, by larger dogs while Erickson was walking them in the parking lot area behind Wal-Mart. Erickson said a young woman had been leading the larger dogs, which appeared to be a German shepherd and a black Labrador, when they got away from her and attacked his dogs.

The German shepherd killed the bichon frise, Gabbie, when it clamped down on the little dog and shook it back and forth. The Lab bit the schnauzer, Maxie, on the left shoulder and opened the little dog's chest to its armpit.

Erickson also suffered bites on his fingers but thinks his own dog may have done that when he stuck his hand in to stop the attack.

"It was over in a hurry," he said. "I took my dogs and left right away to go to the vet's to see if they could save her."

The bichon frise was dead on arrival and covered in blood, said Dr. Dave Pendray, DVM. He intubated her and put her on oxygen to try to revive her.

"The (other) dog was big enough that it was able to penetrate both sides and crushed the lung," he said.

Erickson says he does not plan to take legal action against the young woman who was walking the other dogs. He thinks the dogs pulled their leashes out of her grip.

"She was all torn up about it, too," he said. "I didn't have an opportunity to give her any sympathy. And thank God I didn't shout at her. I have no feelings of animosity toward her, but I sure wish she controlled her dog smore."

"I just want to let the girl know there are things she can do, or this may help someone else."

In talking with some veterinarians, Erickson said he learned that a dog that

attacks another dog could possibly attack a small child in the future.


But Pendray said a dog attacking another dog does not necessarily mean it will attack a child.


"It is not uncommon for larger dogs to attack smaller dogs," he said, adding that it is known as the big dog, little dog syndrome. "You don't relate dog-to-human aggression to dog-to-dog aggression.

"Sometimes dogs don't see little children as humans because they are closer to the same size as them," he added. "There isn't the intimidation of when an adult stands above them. But I don't want to send panic into people. Some dogs like children but don't like smaller dogs."

But, he said, dog bites are not rare.

"If a dog ever did attack a child, the damage could be great," Pendray said.

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