



It's a mystery, says husband after dog attack

By Ingrid Oellermann

Why a pet boerboel would savage its owner, Rita Boshoff, to death was a complete mystery, her grief-stricken husband, Neels, said on Sunday.

Neels Boshoff was also mauled by the dog and underwent more than two hours of surgery after the attack, which took place on their farm on Friday.

He said he and his wife - both teachers at Estcourt High School - had returned to their farm, Ennersdale, on Friday afternoon. She had left the house to take the washing off the line.

"I heard her yelling and yelling and I rushed outside. The dog had her by the neck," he said. He had tried to prise the animal's jaws apart with his hands, but the dog would not let go.

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"Suddenly it just let her go and started biting me. I'm not quite sure why it left me, but when it did I ran inside and got my revolver from the safe.

"By then the dog was hiding under the table where he usually slept. I shot it."

His wife had died at the scene. "I'm still in shock. I can't say what sparked the attack. It's a mystery."

Butch had been an "excellent watchdog", and the family had had no reason to fear him.

"He was used to my wife. She was the one who fed him."

The couple had been married for 31 years. Rita would have celebrated her 54th birthday on Friday. The couple have two sons, Nico and Philip.

The funeral will take place at the Estcourt Dutch Reformed Church at 10am on Wednesday.

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