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## Family dog kills owner in back yard in Broward

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CORAL SPRINGS — A mother of two young children was mauled to death by a family dog Friday in what police said was the first fatal dog attack anyone could remember in Broward County.

Shawna Willey, 30, died next to her backyard pool while trying to bathe the dog at about 3:30 p.m., police said.



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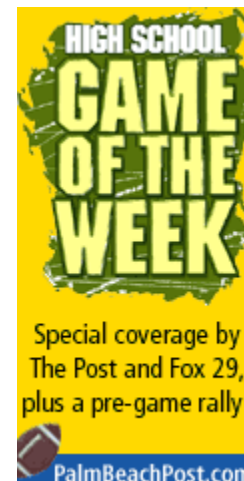
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a shelter. Their fate will be decided later.

The dog that attacked Willey was a Presa Canario, akin to a pit bull.



Officers and paramedics were called to the home, where they found a "surreal scene," Coral Springs Police Capt. Rich Nicorvo said — Willey dead, covered with blood, wounds on her torso, arms and legs.

The 120-pound dog was standing over her body. Nicorvo said it was "acting aggressively," and police shot and killed the animal, which fell or jumped into the pool before dying. Two more dogs were inside the house.

Willey and her daughter, Tyra, were the only ones home at the time of the attack, police said. Tyra had run to a neighbor's house to get help.

Willey lived in the home with her boyfriend, Lazaro Rivero, and her children. Rivero returned home about an hour after the attack and secured the other dogs, which police took to

With powerful jaws and thick skin, the Presa Canario gained national attention in 2001 when a pair bred for dog-fighting mauled a woman to death in San Francisco, leading to the indictment of two neighbors.

The dogs are legal in Broward County.

Horrified residents of the Rolling Hills neighborhood in Coral Springs, where homes are listed at more than \$1 million, said they had seen two of the dogs running loose earlier in the day.

"It was frightening," neighbor Linda Kendricks said. "We were afraid to go out."

Neighbors said Willey drops her children, Tyra and son Trey, at the school bus stop each morning. They said the family had lived in their neighborhood for about three years.

Avrahan Horwitz, 13, said he played with Trey and remembered the day he suggested they play in Willey's back yard.

"We'd better not," Avrahan recalled Trey answering. "The dogs are out and sometimes they bite."

Willey had logged problems with dogs in the past.

In 2000, she was charged with having a dog at large, according to Hillsborough County court records. A dog "threatened (a) witness into the house," records show.

In December 2002, she was charged with having a vicious animal, and having an animal with no current rabies vaccination and no registration. The next year, she was ordered to pay \$1,100, records show. She never paid.

Friday's incident occurred just as the family had been preparing to go on vacation, Nicorvo said.


Blood spattered the backyard patio and French doors where a dog's leash hung from a knob while crime scene technicians worked into the early evening.

"A tragedy," neighbor Gene Rice said.

"A preventable tragedy," neighbor Jon Evans added.

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