

Some people keep him in a cage



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News

DOG BITES OFF MAN'S FINGER

A charity fundraiser's finger was bitten off by a pet dog during a savage doorstep attack which left his hand a "bloody mess".

The ragged tip of pensioner Peter Ball's index finger was found in the letterbox after Benson the flat coat retriever launched himself at the door of the house at Victoria Park Avenue, in Wade Hall, Leyland.

Now Mr Ball, who says he is still a dog-lover despite the attack, has been awarded almost £7,000 damages and £9,000 costs by Preston County Court.

Kenneth Belfield, who owns two dogs at the property, was found strictly liable for allowing one of his pets to cause the injury.

Mr Ball, 72, was stuffing a leaflet advertising the RNLI charity when the top of his index finger of his left hand was severed.

Speaking to the Lancashire Evening Post, he said: "It bit at the bed of the nail, it came straight off. I have lost about an inch.

"I heard the barking immediately after. It was a deep bark from a big dog."

District Judge Gordon Ashton, sitting at Preston County Court yesterday, said: "I find the defendants dogs which were 'on duty' alone at home reacted when they suddenly became aware of a hand appearing through the letterbox.

"It is possible that one snapped at the hand and caught the finger between its teeth while the other barked."

He said evidence also suggested Benson became more excited and need restraining when visitor Jennifer Birchall, from Bristol Avenue, Leyland, called at the home.

District Judge Ashton said steps could have been taken by Mr Belfield to stop an injury including "placing a box on the inside of the letter box or restricting the dogs from that area".

Read the full story in Tuesday's Lancashire Evening Post.

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