

Jobfinder

Propertynews

Drive

Search CAM
BUILD

Favourites

Login/Register

Hel

CEN News

News Home
City Edition
Ely Edition
Huntingdon & St
Ives Edition
Newmarket Edition
Region-wide
Messageboards
In Depth
Features
Columnists
Letters
Search Archive
Free RSS Feeds
Weather

CEN Sport**CEN Business****CEN Lifestyle****CEN Marketplace****CEN People****CEN Quicklinks**[Back to previous page](#)[Home](#) > [News Home](#) > [Newmarket Edition](#) > Bull terrier in savage attack on pet spaniel

Bull terrier in savage attack on pet spaniel

A PET spaniel was savaged by an English Bull Terrier.

Distraught owner Linda Hoare is hoping someone can help her trace the animal which bit her pet so badly it almost lost a leg.

Linda's four-year-old cocker spaniel Fay had to undergo a four-and-a-half hour operation at the Cambridge Veterinary School on Monday, where vets managed to save the leg which had been badly broken in the attack on Saturday.

Linda, of Baines Colney, Haverhill, was walking her dog at the flood park opposite Sainsbury's in the town at about 4pm when a white and brown bull terrier ran over and grabbed her dog by the ear.

She tried to pull Fay away, but the other dog then locked its jaws on to the spaniel's leg and only let go when its owner came over and punched it. The man with the dog said his car was parked across at Focus and he was going to get help, but he never came back.

Linda said: "I don't know how she survived. It was such a ferocious attack I thought she was going to die. I was rolling around on the floor, covered in mud trying to get the dog off her.

"I could tell her leg was broken, it was just hanging limp. She is such a gentle dog, she would not hurt anybody and never bothers other dogs or people.

"I just hope someone might have seen something or recognises the dog or its owner. I would like to see him caught and to warn other people, as next time someone's dog could be killed or it could even be a child attacked.

"The operation cost £2,000 and they were not sure that they could save her leg. They even gave her an epidural and they are pleased with the way it mended.

"She had lots of other bites as well and because she was bitten by another dog they are worried about infection. They are keeping her in and giving her sedatives and when she comes home I have to keep her in a cage for six weeks."

Linda described the man with the other dog as white, about 5ft 11in tall, of medium build, wearing a grey top, a woolly hat and jeans.

Suffolk police confirmed that the attack had been reported to them and urged anyone with information to ring (01284) 774100.

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[Back to top](#)

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