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News

Akita gets free and attacks, bites dog

Jan. 19, 2006

By Tom Wyatt / Post-Tribune staff writer

MERRILLVILLE — When Brian Adams took his 9-year-old greyhound for an evening stroll in the back yard Tuesday, he never imagined rushing her to an emergency veterinary clinic after a violent attack by a neighborhood dog.

Dynamo, rescued by Adams about six years ago from a shelter for abandoned greyhounds, suffered four to five puncture wounds, including a deep wound to the neck, when a neighborhood dog mauled the animal as Adams was walking her back into his home in the 9100 block of Morton Street shortly after 8 p.m.

“I took her out so she could use the bathroom and had her on a leash,” Adams, 38, said from his home Wednesday afternoon. “She did her business in about 10 seconds like she usually does, and we turned around to come back in.

“Out of nowhere, a dog jumped on her throat.”

That dog, an Akita belonging to Herman and Regina Ward of the 9100 block of Lane Street, caused puncture wounds to Dynamo’s neck, ribs and hip area. It’s the second time in less than three weeks a Merrillville resident has been involved in an attack by a dangerous dog.

On Dec. 31, off-duty Merrillville Patrolman David DeSalle was walking his canine police partner Rocco in his Forest Hills neighborhood when a



OWN A PIECE OF SOX HISTORY



Dear Steve, Is it really cooler near the lake?

Pat S.



pit bull got loose from its home and reportedly lunged at him and Rocco. After ordering the pit bull to get down, DeSalle shot and killed the dog.

DeSalle was the responding officer Tuesday night. When he arrived and observed Dynamo's wounds, he told Adams to get the dog to an emergency clinic as soon as possible.

Adams took Dynamo to the Calumet Emergency Veterinary Clinic in Schererville, where she underwent surgery to repair the wounds. Adams said an estimated vet bill of \$600 to \$800 ballooned to \$1,300 when surgery took longer than expected. Adams said the clinic agreed to meet him halfway and charge \$1,000.

On Wednesday morning, Adams took Dynamo to the Griffith Animal Center where she was recuperating.

Adams said Regina Ward took full responsibility for the attack and agreed to pay all of Dynamo's medical bills.

"She was very apologetic," Adams said of Regina Ward. "That was very nice of her."

The Akita's owners told police their dog, named Lexis, had gotten loose before and had attacked people and other dogs.

The owners told police Lexis is a trained attack dog and usually travels with Herman Ward, a truck driver.

The Wards were cited for violating a town ordinance that requires dog owners to register their dog as violent if it is a pit bull or if it has a history of attacking another person or dog. Adams and his father, who was visiting at the time, both kicked and yelled at the Akita as it attacked Dynamo. The dog finally let go of its grip and took off, Adams said.

When Adams got Dynamo back inside his home, he said she was panting, her back legs were shaking and she was bleeding badly.

"I tried comforting her," Adams said. "It freaked her out pretty bad. She's never been in a fight before."

DeSalle visited the Ward house twice Tuesday night. The dog, though, had not returned home. When Merrillville Animal Control Unit Special Service Officer Barbara Breger visited the Ward house Wednesday morning, the dog was believed to be with Herman Ward.

Breger said in her report the Wards had been issued citations in 2004 for not complying fully with the town ordinance and having a dog at large.

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