



Man left injured and shaken after attack by St Bernard

A man who was badly bitten by a St Bernard dog during a "savage attack" in Nonsuch Park has appealed to the public to help find the animal and its owner.

David Preston, who is still recovering from his injuries, originally called for the dog to be put down but now said he would be satisfied if the owner gives a guarantee that the dog which attacked him, and an accompanying St Bernard, are muzzled when they are in a public place.

Mr Preston, from Shere Avenue, Cheam, said "It was a very nasty attack, right out of the blue.

"If it had happened to a child it could have been very serious."

The attack happened at about 3pm on New Year's Eve, when the 46 year old was jogging in an isolated part of Nonsuch Park.

"I saw these two huge dogs, their heads came up to my waist and suddenly there was one fastened on to me.

"It held on to my thigh for four or five seconds while its owner just stood there calling to it in a half-hearted way."

Mr Preston said the owner then put the dogs on a lead and ran off, leaving him very shaken and bleeding from his injuries.

"I was wearing layers of clothing and that probably saved it from being worse," he added.

"I still have the shirt which is ripped with huge great teeth marks in it. That dog could have got a child's head in its mouth."

Mr Preston told the Guardian series he limped to the car park and asked passers-by for help.

Eventually he found someone with a mobile phone to call the police but he was cut off twice as he dialled 999.

"I saw the man and the dogs disappearing in the distance in the direction of the London Road and decided I couldn't do anything then," he said.

He then went to his GP for treatment and reported the incident to police.

He has appealed to anyone who knows the owner of the dog to contact him on 07774 259575.

9:50am Thursday 12th January 2006

By Helen Crane

[Back](#)