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## Boxer in biting attack still at large

By Gary Gerhardt, Rocky Mountain News

March 28, 2006

Denver animal control officers spent this morning scouring the area near South Kipling [Street](#) and West Belleview Avenue for a brown boxer that bit a 76-year-old grandmother Monday as she was out for her daily walk.

Mae Butts of Littleton was taken to Swedish Medical Center with bites to her legs and hands after she was attacked by two boxers.

Her family said today that she was transferred to St. Joseph Hospital where she is in good spirits despite having [lost](#) the tip of one finger in the attack.

Lt. Phil [Champagne](#), spokesman for the Denver Fire Department, said the call for help came at 10:30 a.m. in the 9900 block of West Wagon Trail Drive on two dogs attacking a woman.

He said when firefighters arrived, two of them kept the dogs at bay while others attended to Butts.

Shortly before the fire department arrived, Clint Kell, 25, who had just left his parents home and was driving to his [business](#), Facelift Paint at 4565 S. Independence Street, drove around the corner and saw her.

"She was sitting on the curb with her hands over her face and the dogs were biting her legs and arms and there was quite a bit of [blood](#)," Kell said.

"I jumped out and got to her. The dogs tried to bite me, biting at my [shoes](#) when I tried to kick them, especially the larger one."

Kell used his T-shirt as a tourniquet for Butts' leg and said she had quite extensive tearing of her flesh on her legs.

"They seemed to go for her legs first to get her down and she was sitting on the curb with her legs in the gutters trying to keep her hands up around her face so they couldn't go for her throat," Kell said.

"She was pretty coherent at first, then as we waited for help she started getting hysterical."

The dogs belong to Todd Eckart of 9965 W. Wagon Trail Drive, and when animal control officers went to his [home](#), he relinquished ownership of the smaller boxer named Lola to them.

"We'll hold her for 10 days as a precaution against rabies, then will put her down," said director Doug Kelly.

"We still don't have the bigger dog, Brandy, but I believe he will sign it over to us as well."

Kelly said they were going through past records to see if the dogs had been in trouble before.

Eckart was cited for two counts each of violation of the leash law resulting in an animal bite, failure to vaccinate, to spay and to license.

He said the maximum penalty is up to \$1,000 in fines per count and up to a year in jail for each.

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