

NORTHWEST HERALD

Local News and Video for McHenry County, Illinois

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Man intervenes in attack to save pet

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MARENGO – Jim Wicaryus was visiting a friend at Bob & Sons Auto Repair in Marengo when he heard screaming.

“At first, I thought somebody got hit by a car,” said Wicaryus, 27, of Harvard.

But when he got halfway through the parking lot, he saw a big dog attacking a smaller dog while a woman kept screaming, “He’s going to kill him!”

He continued across Grant Highway, and without a thought to his own safety, he rescued Bailey, a 56-pound golden retriever-poodle mix from the jaws of a 92-pound boxer-husky mix.

“I just thought if that was my dog, I would do everything I could to get it free,” Wicaryus said.

And Susie Salmon-Smith, 48, of Marengo is grateful for his selfless intervention.

“This man is our hero,” Salmon-Smith said.

“He risked his own safety for us.”

Salmon-Smith said she was walking 1-year-old Bailey after work about 3 p.m. April 3 when the other dog slipped out of its collar and broke away from a young girl who was walking it and another large dog.

“He immediately grabbed at my dog’s neck,” Salmon-Smith said. “It was a very vicious attack and extremely terrifying.”

Wicaryus said he pried the attacking dog’s jaws from Bailey’s neck, but the dog immediately grabbed Bailey again.

After he kicked it in the chest twice, the dog released his jaws, allowing Salmon-Smith and Bailey to escape.

They ran six blocks to a veterinarian’s office.

The vet did emergency surgery to reattach Baily’s almost-severed ear and treated the dog to prevent shock.

McHenry County Animal Control is doing a dangerous dog investigation into the incident, health department spokeswoman Debra Quackenbush said.

The dog’s owners could face a fine and other restrictions on their dog, she said.

“This is very unfortunate,” Quackenbush said. “You have a lot of compassion when a pet is attacked by another animal.”

COMMENTS

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