

Simonton woman recovering from dog attack

By Don Munsch

It was supposed to be an uneventful morning exercise, but it turned into a nightmare last week, leaving a recuperating Sandy Conner concerned Wednesday about how the dogs might have instead attacked young children in her Simonton neighborhood.

As the stitches heal in her wounds, Conner, 64, continues to await the results of rabies tests after a pack of dogs jumped her Friday as she walked and jogged through the streets of her Valley Lodge subdivision.

Three of the four dogs in the attack were euthanized in order to be tested for rabies, said Vernon Abschneider, Fort Bend Animal Control director. The remaining one is being held for observation for 10 days at the Simonton Veterinary Clinic, and if it clears quarantine, it can be returned to the owner.

The three other dogs tested negative, Abschneider said.

"The best I know, this was an isolated incident," Abschneider described the attack.

Abschneider said three of the dogs were Blue Heelers and the other was a Red Heeler, all of which he described as herding dogs.

Conner said she was on her morning jog/walk around 8:30 a.m. when the dogs suddenly attacked her. She was taken to OakBend Medical Center, where she received stitches for a calf bite and an arm bite.

"I had a horrible bite that took a hunk out of my lower left calf," she said, describing one of the injuries. The arm injury resulted in much bleeding because it penetrated an artery. Conner also suffered a bite on her ankle that didn't require stitches, as well as numerous scratches.

"It was a vicious attack," she said, although she prefers to think of it as a "mauling".

Conner went back to the doctor Monday and is doing better. She was prescribed antibiotics to ward off possible infection.

She said she never had time to defend herself when the animals attacked after they apparently escaped from a fenced-in area. She said a teenage boy, son of the dogs' owner, shooed them away.

The dogs' owner assisted her at the scene, and Conner said she was "very compassionate toward me," offering to pay for Conner's medical expenses.

Conner hasn't decided whether she will press charges, but she doesn't understand why anyone who would own dogs such as these would not ensure they were kept away from the public.

She worries about what would have happened had the dogs attacked the small children across the street.

"I was lucky," she said.

Conner said she appreciates the care she received the hospital and the outpouring of concern from friends, family and neighbors.