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Tuesday, August 14, 2007

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Williston dog attacks three

Published: Tuesday, August 14, 2007 By Ashley Matthews Free Press Staff Writer



A Williston dog attacked three people Saturday afternoon, sending two women and a man to the hospital.

Williston Police Officer Keith Gonyeau said the dog, a chow, was chained on its owners' property on Porterwood Drive as neighbors who were visiting fed it treats. The dog attacked the woman, biting her on the chest, thigh and forearm, removing a bite-sized chunk of her arm.

When the man attempted to pull the dog off, he was also bitten, causing a deep gash and two puncture wounds on his forearm.

The dog's owner, Bonnie Racine, also was bitten when she attempted to end the attack. Then, according to Williston police, the dog ate the piece of flesh it had removed from the female victim's arm.

Gonyeau said police don't plan to bring any charges against Racine because the dog was restrained on her property. He said the town may take action, however, because the dog was not registered.

Racine could not be reached for comment.

A news release issued by Williston police said this is the first reported incident involving the dog, but said a family friend reported that the dog attempted to attack a child a few weeks before this weekend's attack. The owner was able to control the dog before it harmed the child, and the incident was not reported to police at the time.

The dog is being quarantined at O'Neil's Boarding Kennels in Shelburne. If the victims file a complaint with the town of Williston, the Selectboard can hold a hearing to determine the dog's fate. Williston Town Manager Richard McGuire said that to his knowledge, no complaints have been filed.

Contact Ashley Matthews at 651-4811 or amathews@bfp.burlingtonfreepress.com.

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No, skaspy That is exactly what I choose to do. By and large, my experience with Chows has been negative. Way out of proportion with any negative experiences with other kinds of dogs. That not to say that your dog isn't a sweetheart. I stand by my original statement. Chows, by and large, have some serious issues and those are valid when dealing with a dog owners liability and responsibility to the community.

Huskies have their own problems, however they are nowhere near as troubled as chows.

Also, lots of dogs are chain and never bite. Chaining is never a valid reason for biting. Sounds like this visitor was trying to show this dog some affection when it lost it.

Lastly, this sounds like a situation where this owner had no business with this type of animal and at the very least should have known what this specific animal might due.

Posted: Tue Aug 14, 2007 8:39 am

This is ridiculous. I own a Chow and if I chained him up, I would hope he would bite me to teach me a lesson. The problem is, he has never bit anyone even when threatened and when other dogs confront him or even attack him, he never goes over the edge.

Any dog will attack if they are treated wrong. It is a shame this attack happened to be a Chow Chow because they are the most loyal dog you can have. Simply just saying a breed is "bad tempered" is the same thing as being racist or sexist. There are tons of nay sayers about Huskies but I've never met one that was mean.

"that bellies their ill-tempered disposition" what kinda of garbage is that? There is no way a Chow has any idea that their appearance is "cute". If the dog does have any disposition it is because they are always guarding their owner and yes, can be viscous about it. But just like a child, half of it is upbringing so if you socialize a Chow Chow with people and other dogs, it won't have that problem.

Now please stop focusing on the breed of this dog and start examining how long and how often this dog is chained up.

Posted: Tue Aug 14, 2007 8:26 am

jbtrevor, I'll bet you dollars to doughnuts they don't have it. If i was an insurance agency and you come to me and said you had a chow, I'd run away as fast as I could.

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They are beautiful dogs, but that belies their ill-tempered disposition.

Posted: Tue Aug 14, 2007 8:01 am

I own 2 dogs and have had dogs all my life. I can not imagine what I would do without them. I have seen though damage a dog can inflict on someone and it is quite unnerving, especially if the dog is a family dog. If you read ANY breeding or vet book, you will find chows listed, along with pit bulls, as "Fighting dogs" and to quote, "Highly recommended, not for causal or family ownership."

Chows and pitbulls both are the only breeds with locking jaws, that when they get a hold of their victim, they can not let go. Also, they are listed as the most inbred breed by the AKC.

What I read in this article and I was the owner, I would put the dog down myself with no waste of time.

Posted: Tue Aug 14, 2007 7:50 am

I don't know who Racine has property insurance with, but I'd be dropping her as a client ASAP.
JBT

Posted: Tue Aug 14, 2007 7:49 am

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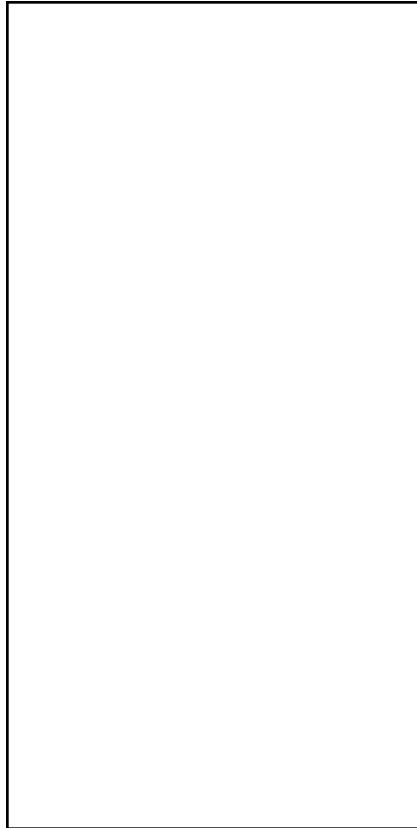
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