



### **Bull terrier owner cautioned over bite**

Police have cautioned a man after two Staffordshire bull terrier dogs escaped from his garden and darted into a youth football tournament.

Children and parents at the six-a-side competition on Grove recreation ground on Sunday scattered when the dogs attacked each other, before one bit the hand of a woman trying to protect her own dog.

The first match in the contest, run by Grove Challengers Football Club, had just got under way when the dogs appeared.

A woman spectator was confronted by one of them which threatened her leashed Jack Russell.

She picked up her pet to try to protect it, but the other dog jumped up and bit her hand. Other spectators chased off the dogs and eventually managed to tie one up, while the other ran off.

Club official Trevor Heatherington said: "It was an upsetting incident but fortunately the woman was not seriously hurt."

Police were called and tracked down the dogs' owner, who lives close to the recreation ground. He was cautioned for "allowing the dog to be dangerously out of control and injuring a person".

Staffordshire bull terriers are not an illegal breed, and the dog that injured the woman will not have to be put down.

Police spokesman Kate Smith said: "We ask that dog owners take responsibility for their animals, and ensure they cannot escape from their enclosures or gardens. It is an offence to allow a dog to be dangerously out of control and injuring a person. It could lead to action being taken against the owners and the dog being put down."

The Oxford Mail was unable to contact the owner.

\*Were you a spectator or someone who saw what happened? If so, call our news desk on 01865 425405 or email [nqonews@nqo.com](mailto:nqonews@nqo.com)

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*By Gordon Rogers*

[Back](#)