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Pet quarantined after attack

(<http://www.post-trib.com/news/467188,baddog.article>)

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By Jane Huh Post-Tribune staff writer

Shadow has cast a pall on two Crown Point neighbors' relationship: Scott Angel and Thomas Borders, who live one house away from each other.

Shadow, a 2-year-old retriever/spaniel mix, is under a 10-day quarantine that expires Sunday for biting Borders' 7-year-old son on July 5.

"I want them to get rid of the dog, period," Borders said, adding he wants "to make sure" the Angels give up their dog.

According to the police report, while Borders' son, Jake, a Winfield Elementary School student, was outside playing with toy airplanes, the boy came into the Angels' yard to retrieve a plane. The dog was chained but tried to take the plane, as well, and in doing so bit Jake on his right thigh, the police report states. The injuries were minor and he wounds were bandaged and Jake is taking antibiotics, the police report states

Angel, president of the Crown Point Community School Corp., said his insurance company will pay Borders' medical fees even though Angel said he is not legally bound to cover the expenses because the boy came onto his property.

"I'm doing everything I can to be a responsible pet owner," said Angel, who has four children. "I feel really bad it happened."

On June 29, another neighbor filed an incident report with the Lake County Sheriff's Department after Shadow bit her Boston terrier, requiring stitches. The Boston terrier ran onto the Angels' property.

Angel said he will wait until after Sunday to make a decision about what to do next.

But the prospect of giving up Shadow, "a part of the family," is not easy to consider. Angel said the family took Shadow from a rescue shelter in Kokomo in October 2005.

Like Angel, Borders also is a dog owner. His family has two dogs and he said he understands that relinquishing a dog can hurt.

"I love my dogs to death," Borders said.

Still, if Borders' 7-year-old mutt Lucy had done what Shadow did, he said "she'd be gone."

Animal control field officers said they will begin investigating next week to determine if Shadow needs to be removed. Neighbors will be informed of the process and will have an opportunity to either defend or prosecute the dog, said Matt Lubarski, director of the Lake County Animal Center and Animal Control.

Lubarski said disputes such as this are relatively rare and the circumstances are not always "black and white."

"We are absolutely not leaning any way at this point until we make an analysis of the situation," Lubarski said.

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