

## Two fined for fatal attack on small dog

By LILA FUJIMOTO, Staff Writer

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WAILUKU – After her family's long-haired chihuahua was fatally attacked by two neighbors' dogs in Wailuku Heights last month, Kennethy Souza couldn't forget the "fear and terror" she saw her daughter experience.

"People who have dogs and let them run wild don't think of what can happen," Souza said. "And when it does happen, they don't realize all the pain and suffering you go through."

Souza said she was thankful for the chance to speak at a Wailuku District Court hearing last week when the two dog owners each pleaded guilty to two counts of leash law violations and the dog attack.

Owners Louis Ferreira, 77, and his granddaughter Kimberly Kilborn, 25, were fined, with Ferreira ordered to pay the maximum amount of \$1,500 and Kilborn ordered to pay \$900, said Aimee Anderson, director of animal control for the Maui Humane Society.

Judge Douglas Ige also ordered Ferreira and Kilborn to pay \$1,600 in restitution to cover the medical expenses of the Souzas' 10-year-old male dog, Poki, and \$500 that the family paid for a new short-haired chihuahua.

"I was really impressed with the outcome," Souza said. "Although it doesn't bring my dog back, the judge was nice enough and ordered them to pay for the cost of my new dog."

Kilborn surrendered her 2-year-old male Border collie mix, which was euthanized after being deemed dangerous, Anderson said.

Ferreira said he also agreed to surrender his 15-year-old male sharpei mix named Bruno, but the dog ran away the day it was supposed to be picked up by animal control officers. "He hasn't been found since," Ferreira said Tuesday.

Each dog weighed about 50 pounds, Anderson said.

The attack occurred at about 4:40 p.m. Feb. 2 while Souza's 16-year-old daughter, Miken, and 10-year-old daughter, Kenley, were returning to their home on Ekoa Street after taking Poki for a walk.

A witness reported seeing three dogs from the Ferreira residence run across the road. Miken was holding Poki across her chest when two of the dogs jumped on the girl, with one snatching Poki from her, Souza said. The two dogs were mauling Poki as they ran back down the Ferreira driveway, with the dogs alternately carrying Poki in their mouths, Souza said.

She said the attack was witnessed by Mike Przetak, who was riding his motorcycle and stopped to help. While no one appeared from the Ferreira house, Souza said other neighbors ran out to help, keeping the girls away from the dogs.

Poki suffered major lacerations, including one across the top of his back, Souza said. She said the dog's condition appeared to be improving before he died 10 days later on the morning of Feb. 12.

While the Souzas' 17-year-old daughter, Kauai, wasn't there when Poki was attacked, she was also affected by the dog's death, Souza said. She said Poki was the family's first pet and a gift from the girls' grandfather, who died nine years ago.

Even though he pleaded guilty to the violations, Ferreira maintained that his dog wasn't at fault.

"I was home in bed. I was sick at the time when the incident happened," Ferreira said. "I really don't know what took place.

"I know that my granddaughter's dog Pono was the one that caused it. My dog wasn't really involved, but he happened to be there at the time."

Ferreira said the family's female dog was in heat that day, making his granddaughter's dog more active.

"I didn't know what happened, but there's nothing I could do but to plead guilty," Ferreira said. "There's nothing we can do because the dogs were unleashed."

Under the Maui County Code, dogs must be kept on a leash unless the animals are on property that is fully enclosed or are in a secure kennel.

Anderson said animal control officers had previously cited both Ferreira and Kilborn for leash law violations. Ferreira had been cited at least 10 previous times, Anderson said.

Ferreira said he had appeared in court only once before for a leash law citation.

Souza said about a half-dozen neighbors have complained about the Ferreira dogs being loose in the neighborhood.

"I need to pursue this so stronger laws will be made against negligent dog owners who do not obey the leash laws," she said.

Anderson said the Maui Humane Society also supports stronger leash law penalties, particularly for repeat offenders. She said complaints about leash law violations tripled from more than 100 in January to more than 300 last month.

"Dogs can kill people and hurt people and kill animals," Anderson said. "The laws need to be changed. The community deserves it. We deserve to be safe and our animals deserve to be safe."

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