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'Brutal attack' by dogs kills Pomeranian

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ANSONIA — A 6-month-old Pomeranian was killed Sunday in an attack by a neighbor's dog, police said.

"So far, we've determined that two dogs, the bull mastiff and a Labrador, got out of their pens and made it under a fence to the backyard where the Pomeranian was on a leash," said Lt. Wayne Williams, the police spokesman.

He said the bull mastiff attacked the smaller dog and that the Labrador "may have taken part in the attack." Brian Francione, the owner of the Pomeranian named Sammy, said he saw both dogs attacking his young puppy.

"We heard screeching and went outside and both dogs were on ours," the Benz Street resident said. "We tried to get the larger dogs off, but they kept ripping our dog right out of our hands."

Francione said the struggle to get the larger dogs off Sammy "went on for a good 10 to 15 minutes.

"We'd get one dog off him and the other one would be on him again. It was just horrible."

The puppy was taken to a local veterinary hospital, where it died about two hours later.

"The vet told us he had severe brain injury and was blinded by the attack," Francione said. "He also had broken ribs and internal bleeding and a torn trachea. It was a very brutal attack."

He said Sammy weighed about 10 pounds and the larger dogs about 150 pounds.

By the time police officers arrived, the large dogs had returned to their own backyard, Williams said.

He said police and the city's animal control officer investigated, and Elmer Sulkowski, Jr., who owns the bull mastiff and Labrador, was charged with several infractions Monday.

These included three counts of failure to license a dog, Williams said; Sulkowski also owns a third dog, which did not take part in the attack.

Sulkowski is also charged with two counts each of allowing a dog to roam and harboring a dog as to create a nuisance.

The infractions carry fines totaling \$634, Williams said.

He said Sulkowski cooperated with the investigation and said he was willing to pay any medical bills associated with the incident.

Sulkowski could not be reached for comment Monday.

"He's also looking for another home for his bull mastiff," Williams said.

Francione said he is not pleased with the outcome.

"Those dogs are still there and are a nuisance — they're beasts," he said. "I won't be happy until they are all gone."