



Saturday, 24 Mar 2007

'Notorious' dog attacks woman in wheelcar

The dog that attacked a Matangi woman this week was involved in an earlier attack on a passing dog.

The partially blind and wheelchair-bound elderly woman who was attacked by a doberman in Matangi on Wednesday night is angry the dog had been impounded a fortnight earlier.

Seventy-five-year-old Dawn Brocket, who had to undergo surgery and a skin graft for the puncture wound in her arm, believes the owner should have better restrained the animal and another dog on the property after the first incident.

"It stinks. I'd shoot her if I got hold of her."

Mrs Brocket, who has lived in Matangi for 69 years, said she had been considering starting a petition about the dogs prior to the attack.

Confined to a wheelchair since 1952 - when she and her late husband both contracted polio - Mrs Brocket thought the dog was still impounded when she went for her "evening stroll" along Matangi Rd.

"I just got past the gate and the damn thing roared out and came behind me. It barked and just grabbed my arm. Luckily John Bennett -- I didn't know him at all -- he ran the dog off with his bike. I just thank God it wasn't a kid."

The incident has left her exhausted but grateful she won't lose any movement in her hand. She said she won't hide away in her home and will still get about the village to visit her extended family -- many of whom live nearby.

Yesterday the owner of the dobermann, known only as Rachel, told the Times she was shocked at news of the attack but refused to say where the dog was now.

It was understood she did not live at the Matangi Rd property and the dog was being kept there on her behalf.

Matangi resident Abigail Smillie called dog control officers two weeks ago about the dobermann after it and a boxer-cross from the same address rushed out and attacked her rough-coated collie dog, named Womble, as she walked it. Womble was left shaken and frightened by the attack, she said.

Miss Smillie said she felt sick when she heard about the second attack on Mrs Brocket this week.

Waikato District Council environmental services manager Nath Pritchard said the dog had been impounded a fortnight ago.

"It was one of two dogs at the property and we had a report they had rushed out and harassed another small dog on the roadway. Our staff went through the follow-up process and as no damage was done the animals were returned about two weeks ago."

Mr Pritchard said dog control officers were canvassing Matangi residents to build up a history of the

dog's behaviour.

You may not copy, republish or distribute this page or the content from it without having obtained written permission from the copyright owner. To enquire about copyright clearances contact clearance@fairfaxnz.co.nz.