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Man hospitalized after dog attack

By [Dave Greber](#)

Staff Writer

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HAMILTON — James King was doing something Saturday night that all neighbors do — he was talking across a fence.

King said he had just started a conversation with Linda Martin around 9 p.m. when three of her seven boxers jumped over the waist-high, chain link fence in her back yard and attacked him.

In a matter of minutes, King, of the 300 block of South Fifth Street in the city's east side, said he was fighting for his life as his neighbors attempted to rip the dogs off his legs, arms and chest.

"Something kept telling me, just don't get on the ground," King said Monday.

A night in the hospital and 75 stitches later, King, 60, said he now fears for his grandchildren, and is terrified to relax in his own back yard.

A Butler County animal control officer cited Martin for two counts of failing to confine a vicious dog, four counts of failure to properly license dogs and one count of failing to properly insure a dog that is considered vicious.

In order for a dog to be considered vicious in the city of Hamilton, it must have a bite record, according to Butler County Dog Warden Lt. Julie Holmes. One of Martin's dogs involved in the attack Saturday had bitten another person earlier this year, Martin said.

State law also requires owners to have a \$100,000 insurance policy for vicious dogs, Holmes said.

The dogs must be quarantined for the next 10 days and inspected by a veterinarian, Holmes said. If the dogs are not current on shots like rabies and other vaccinations, King may be required to undergo preventative treatment.

A representative from the Butler County Health Department said officials there will attempt to obtain a court order to remove the dogs from the Martin home. In the meantime, the dogs will remain there.

"I feel deeply, deeply sorry that James got hurt," Martin said, tears streaming down her face. "But these are my babies. I can say sorry, and that's all I can do."

This story will be updated as more information becomes available.

Contact this reporter at (513) 705-2840 or dgreber@coxohio.com.

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