

NEW YORK POST

DOG-ATTACK SUIT

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NEW YORK POST EXCLUSIVE

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May 21, 2007 -- A dog lover is suing a Staten Island couple because she says they failed to tell her the pooch she adopted from them was violent - and she says she has the scars to prove it.

"The plastic surgeon said it was one of the worst dog bites he'd ever seen. . . . [My lip] was so badly ripped off," said Nancy Guastini, 42, of Stonington, Conn.

Guastini first heard about Duncan, an 18-month-old chocolate Labrador, through a friend who told her Frank and Caroline Farella wanted to give him up because the wife was pregnant. But Guastini said that when she went to pick up her new puppy in March, she immediately thought something was odd when Farella kept hitting Duncan with a leash.

When she brought Duncan home, she told him, "It's OK Duncan, you're gonna be OK. You're a good boy."

That's when he lunged at her from across the room and bit her face, she said.

Guastini was rushed for plastic surgery. She still bears scars from the attack and owes \$8,000 in hospital bills. She'll likely undergo a second procedure that will set her back up to \$40,000, she said.

Guastini doesn't blame Duncan, who she had put down after the attack. She blames the Farellas, who she said have disappeared.

"I think he was a fighting dog," said Guastini. "He was afraid to death of [Farella]."

"In my eyes, Duncan only had about six hours of a fantastic life, and that was with us," she said.

She's suing the Farellas in Brooklyn federal court.

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