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BRYDIE FLYNN

Police use capsicum spray to stop dog

AS Jennifer Mullins watched chunks of skin savagely torn from her 8-year-old labrador, Chomp, on Wednesday afternoon, she screamed for help. Unable to stop the large dog she described as "a disgusting killer" from attacking her family pet, she was forced to watch Chomp have his skin pierced by a set of sharp teeth and thrown around like a sack of potatoes into a nearby canal.

Police were called to the scene near Hanwood Public School, but even they struggled with the shar-pei cross and resorted to administering capsicum spray on the dog.

According to Ms Mullins, police also used their batons to beat the rare breed of Chinese fighting dog and clambered on top of the police van in order to avoid danger during the attack, which lasted around 40 minutes.

Eventually, and with the help of a passer-by, the dog was secured in the rear of the van and taken to the pound.

"It was right near a school and it could have just as easily been a kid that it attacked," Ms Mullins said.

"He (Chomp) looks like he's had a meat tenderiser taken to him and he has six wounds with cavities under the skin, which needed to be drained."

At the time of the attack the dog was believed to be a stray as it was

collarless and was not micro-chipped, but the following day, owners came forward to claim the animal. Ms Mullins said they could also expect to pick up the vet bill for Chomp's treatment.

Late Friday afternoon, those owners made the difficult decision to put the dog down in order to prevent future attacks.

"They have reluctantly made the responsible, but heart-wrenching, decision to surrender the dog to council and have it euthanased," Council compliance officer Michael Toohey said.

He said he hoped the sad case would serve as a public reminder about the responsibilities associated with



Brutal Attack:

JENNIFER Mullin's labrador Chomp, with James Mullins, 11, and Damien Mullins, 12, was recently released from the vet following a brutal attack by a roaming shar-pei cross in Hanwood.

dog ownership.

"These are wonderful household pets that people believe wouldn't hurt a fly, but owners need to be very careful about how they manage dogs," Mr Toohey said.

"As there has been an increase of dog attacks in recent years the legislation is very strong and there is a clear onus on owners to have their dogs under effective control at all times."

Investigations are continuing to determine whether the owners should be prosecuted over the attack.

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