

Today is Saturday, October 20, 2007
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Dog breaks leash attacks
letter carrier in Torrance

The postal worker says he feared the boxer mix because it has barked at him for years.
By Larry Altman
Staff Writer

A dog broke free from its chain in Torrance on Friday and bit a mail carrier who said he always feared the barking boxer mix as he walked his route.

The postal worker, Tim Findon, said the puncture wound on his left hand was not serious, but it was the first time a dog had bitten him in his 13 years walking the north Torrance route.

"I don't like getting bitten," he said.

The attack occurred less than a week after south Torrance residents held a party for recovering mail carrier Moon Choi, who was severely mauled by a pit bull in August.

Findon, 42, said he was walking in front of a house in the 4100 block of 180th Street at about 2:45 p.m. when the dog broke free from its leash.

The dog's owner, Evie Vassiliou, had attached Xena to a leash to give her a bath because relatives were visiting Friday, said Vassiliou's mother, Agnes. When the mail carrier walked by, Xena became agitated, lunged at him and broke the chain. Vassiliou was unable to stop the animal, the mother said.

Her daughter collected the dog and took her inside, but Torrance Animal Control officer Shannon Behn impounded the animal for a 10-day quarantine at the county animal shelter in Carson.

Crying, Evie Vassiliou placed Xena into a cage on Behn's truck.

It was unclear Friday what will happen to the dog, which is now housed in the same shelter as Chucky, the dog that attacked Choi.

Vassiliou's mother said her daughter adopted Xena about three years ago while volunteering at a Noah's Bark adoption event.

"She was feeling so bad. Nobody wanted that dog," her mother said. "She said, 'Mom, she needs a home.' She fell in love. She loves that dog."

The daughter declined to comment.

The mail carrier said the dog has barked at him for years when he walks by. He considered the dog a threat.

Findon sought treatment for his wound at a local medical clinic. His supervisor finished delivering the neighborhood's mail.

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How VERY kind to adopt an animal, you are to be commended for doing so; HOWEVER, tremendous responsibility comes with your loving action. Not only must you have proper shots and license for the animal, but you must have a strong enough chain that it cannot break free. I would also, for your protection, suggest a VERY large liability insurance policy for such an incident as just occurred. I am VERY sorry for the gentleman who was bitten! There is no way to ease the trauma he experienced by the animal bite.

- Great Grandma

posted: Saturday, October 20th at 2:28 AM

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