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Virginia News

Dog attack leads to \$234 fine

By Diane Walker, NBC12 News

When a dog mauls a neighbor's dog, whose fault is it? 12 On Your Side has information pet owners should know when one dog jumps another.

We received a tearful call from Sallie Perks of Dinwiddie County. She says her neighbor's pet is dangerous, and should be listed in the state's dangerous dog registry. Her pooch weighs 9 pounds. The dog who attacked is 81 pounds heavier.

Size does not matter when a dog attacks another dog. The 90-pound mixed breed took a bite out of his neighbor's dog last Friday. Little Mack was being considered for euthanasia, until Monday.

"She brought him in my yard," said Little Mack's owner. "She was like 10 feet inside my yard."

Was Buddy's attacker on a leash? Is his attacker a dangerous dog for jumping another dog? Those questions are at the heart of this dispute between neighbors.

Little Mack "picked him up in his mouth, from where you see the injuries, and was shaking him like a rag doll," Perks said. "I don't think the dog belongs in a community situation. He needs to be out on a farm because of his size and his aggressiveness."

A judge makes that determination, and Dinwiddie Animal Control says there must be a history of bad behavior for an animal to be convicted.

"He's bitten a person for sticking their hand in the truck about eight months ago. He bit somebody in the house one day," Little Mack's owner said. "It didn't break the skin."

Those bites on people were never reported, so Little Mack had a clean record when a judge decided his fate on Monday.

His owner was found not guilty on the nuisance charge but guilty of failing to confine his dog and told to pay \$234 in restitution.

The vet tells me Little Buddy will be okay.

If you live in Dinwiddie, there is no countywide leash law, but if you live north of Route 460 or in McKenney or in the Virginia Hills subdivision, your animal must be on a leash.

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