



Leadville man who shot dogs said they left him 'no choice'

By Bill Scanlon

Wednesday, August 6, 2008

A Leadville man who killed a dog and injured another last week said he did so because he feared for his safety after the two American bulldogs attacked his German shepherd and tried to force their way inside his house.

"My family was under attack," said Clint Jewell, a retired teacher. "They were savage, really fierce. I was afraid they'd get into the house by beating that door down. They left me no choice."

Jewell faces felony animal cruelty charges. The owner of the bulldogs, Marge Henry, also faces a charge of having dangerous animals at large.

Jewell's burden is that he didn't shoot the dogs on his own property - he was about 50 feet off it when he shot them with a .22-caliber revolver.

Henry said Jewell had no right to leave his property with a gun and shoot her dogs.

But Lake County Sheriff Ed Holte said it's possible that the district attorney won't pursue charges against Jewell. Holte said Henry's dogs "looked exactly like pit bulls to me," referring to the notoriously aggressive breed.

Holte said the two dogs worked their way through a hole in a backyard fence that Henry "never bothered to fix." Henry, however, maintains her dogs had made a hole in the fence just that day.

After the attack on his dog and the bulldogs' attempts to get in his house, Jewell said he felt obligated to warn the neighbors and carried his .22 with him. He had just left his property when the dogs started for him, he said.

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