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News

Cat loses leg in dog attack

LUCY BOLTON
13 December 2008 07:00



Coco the cat lost a leg following a fight with a dog. Photos: Simon Finlay.

A heartbroken family have called for dangerous dogs to be muzzled after witnessing the family cat being savaged by a dog.

Seven-month-old tabby cat Coco was attacked by a black greyhound dog and left without a leg and fighting for her life.

Mum-of-two Fran Rose, 28, is now calling for dangerous dogs to be muzzled and says the attack has left her with a £1,500 vet's bill.

But the dog's owner, who refused to be named, claims the cat started the fight after launching itself from a gate onto the dog's face.

Miss Rose said she heard painful screams after letting Coco the cat out of the house in Neville Road in Sprowston, on Monday lunchtime. When she went outside, the dog had the cat in its mouth and would not let go.

The support worker, who is mother to Alexandra, nine, and Charlie, four, said: "I was horrified and I'm still so upset.

"I ran up in hysterics but the dog just would not let Coco go.

"The dog was really angry and scary so I was worried it would turn on me too."

The animal finally let the cat go and Miss Rose rushed Coco to the vets where she

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was devastated to find her front left leg had to be amputated because it had been so badly damaged.

She said: "When the dog eventually let my cat go she looked like a broken toy.

"I'm not sure she's going to make it. It is absolutely horrible to see her like this and because it's a front leg she's finding it really hard to walk.

"We only got her in the summer and she was for the children. Charlie is scared of her now. The vet's bills are already at £1,500 and the dog's owner hasn't offered to contribute a penny."

However, the dog's owner, said the cat started the fight and she did everything she could to try to get the cat to leave her pet alone.

The woman, who would not be named, said: "The cat launched itself onto the face of my dog. My dog is a rescue greyhound and quite nervous anyway."

But Miss Rose said because the dog has attacked once it is likely to do so again and she's calling for the animal to be muzzled.

Miss Rose did call the police but was told it was an issue to be dealt with by dog wardens.

However Moira Ross-Dempster, a dog warden from Norwich City Council, said the issue was one for the police to deal with under the Dangerous Dogs Act because the role of dog wardens is to deal with strays, educate owners about diseases and discuss micro-chipping.

A Norfolk Constabulary spokesman said: "Each case would be judged on its merits. If we were called we would assess whether the dog was a danger to the public or an illegal breed and take the appropriate action."

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Fran Rose and her children Alexandra, 9, and Charlie, 4, and their cat Coco.

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