

Dog sentenced to death for attack on teen jogger

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A DOG which attacked a teenager has been ordered to be put down.

The Dogue De Bordeaux lunged three times at the 13-year-old, digging its teeth into his thighs and hand, which left him with 14 wounds.

His owner, Keith Crean, 48, pleaded guilty at Cardiff Magistrates' Court, to owning a dog which was dangerously out of control. Magistrates ordered that the giant hound, named Bruce, be destroyed.

But businessman Crean immediately launched an appeal against the decree, to save his family pet.

Leighton Mawer, prosecuting, told the court that the father and son – who can't be named for legal reasons – were jogging along Heol y Parc, Pentyrch, Cardiff, on September 18, when the dog ran out and launched itself onto the boy, who is now 15.

He said: "At the time the boy had a mobile phone in his pocket and the screen was cracked as a result of the dog bite. It shows the force that was used."

The court heard Bruce attacked another jogger in April, biting him on the thigh and finger, when he ran past the house.

In June, Bruce burst through the hedge surrounding his home and attacked the dog of a woman walking past.

Alistair Jones, defending, said: "It must have been a frightening experience for everyone. If the dog feels threatened by people he acts as a guard dog."

Mr Jones said Crean has since spent thousands of pounds to build a compound with a 10 foot high fence to ensure that Bruce could not escape and attack anyone else.

He said Bruce was bought after Crean's wife was seriously attacked in their semi-rural home by an intruder.

"It was a harrowing and frightening experience and she was advised by police that she get a dog.

“Mr Crean was concerned about the dangers of what could happen to his family.”

He added that Bruce had never been aggressive to family members – he only acted when he felt threatened.

He said safeguards were now in place to stop Bruce from attacking anyone else.

But magistrates were not convinced. They ordered Crean to pay £500 compensation to the boy, £70 for his damaged phone and £55 court costs.

Chairman of the magistrates, Sian Davies, said: “We are not satisfied that the dog would not cause a danger to public safety.”

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