



Dog attack raises fears for children

FEARS over children's safety have been raised after a stray bull mastiff attacked another dog while it was being taken for a walk by its owner.

The incident happened on Basford Way while Elaine and Terry O'Brien were walking their Border collie, Meg.

Terry, of Kingsley Walk, said: "The dog just went for Meg and it all happened so quickly.

"There was nothing I could do because if I had tried to stop the dog then it would have gone for me."

Meg was rushed to the vet after she was viciously attacked by the dog and required surgery for her injuries.

The couple's daughter, Rebecca Hall, who has three young children, is worried that it could have been a small child that was attacked by the bull mastiff.

She said: "My children go out with their grandparents all the time so it's so worrying because it could have been one of them that this dog attacked.

"We are all devastated that Meg has been attacked but at the same time I am relieved that my children weren't there when it happened."

Rebecca, of Corfe Way, hopes the attack on her parents' dog will make owners aware of the injuries their dog could inflict.

She said: "People need to realise what the consequences are for letting a dog like this roam around.

"There is a play area in Basford Way so there will be lots of small children there and to have a stray dog like this on the loose is terrifying.

"My parents are devastated about what has happened and people need to take responsibility for their dogs.

"There have been recent incidents where small children have been killed by dogs so it is a very serious issue."

9:05am today

By Philip Hennessey

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