



FULL STORY

## 80 BITES

Man killed by pack of dogs

Richard Charan and Trevor Hackett South Bureau

Thursday, January 10th 2008



mauled to death: Michael Charles, 66

A man bitten more than 80 times by a pack of dogs while on his way to the village parlour has died at hospital.

Michael Charles, 66, died Tuesday-two days after the attack near his home at Maharaj Trace, Cap De Ville, Point Fortin.

The dogs that mauled Charles on the legs, arms, back and neck were said to be mongrels (pot hounds) and one was a mix between a mongrel and Rottweiler.

The dogs belong to a man who often left them unleashed in his unfenced yard, residents said.

Charles, a retired Point Fortin Borough Corporation worker, was the father of four and grandfather of four.

Charles's family asked yesterday that police take action in the case.

"This is no way for someone to die. The doctor counted more than 80 bites on my father's body. I want something to be done," said his daughter Syria Charles.

Villagers said the dogs had attacked and bitten people before.

A man who answered the door of the house where the dogs live yesterday said the owner was not at home.

Charles's son, Urisestar Charles, 24, said that at around 6.30 a.m. on Sunday, neighbours called him out of his home.

"They told me the dogs bit my father, and to come pick him up. I found him near the kennel at the back of the house, dog bite all over."

He added: "My dad said he got up about half past four to go to the parlour to buy something and when the dogs attack, he ran into the yard and more dogs bite him."

He said his father's condition deteriorated and they called the paramedics. Charles died at around 8 a.m. on Tuesday at the San Fernando General Hospital. An autopsy found he died from heart failure and relatives said the bites triggered it.

Police investigators said they only learned of the incident after Charles died and relatives made a report to them. They intend questioning the dogs' owner.

Police have twice, in the past eight years, laid charges of manslaughter against the owners of dogs that attacked and killed people. In both instances, the men were freed after the court ruled there was no evidence to suggest the owners were negligent.

---