

## Horror dog attack

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### **A CORIO boy has been left traumatised after his pet dog was killed in a vicious attack by two American bulldogs.**

Eight-year-old Mitchell Blackney-McLaren says he was walking his wire-haired terrier named "Big Kev" about 1pm on Monday when the two dogs smashed their way through a fence and attacked.

His distraught mother, Jennifer Blackney, yesterday claimed the dogs took hold of Big Kev in their jaws and tore at his body.

"They headbutted the palings off the fence, they grabbed the dog off my little boy and used him for tug-of-war. There was one at each end of him," she said.

Ms Blackney said a friend who saw the attack tried to fend off the large dogs with a cricket bat while Mitchell ran home to raise the alarm.

Big Kev was taken to the local vet suffering large gashes to his body but could not be saved.

Corio Veterinary Clinic confirmed Big Kev was in terrible condition, having suffered severe abrasions and major internal haemorrhaging.

Ms Blackney said she reported the incident to the local council and hoped the dogs would be destroyed to prevent



SCARED: Mitchell Blackney-McLaren, 8, of Corio with his remaining dog Bellah. Photo: TONY KERRIGAN

another attack.

The dogs' elderly owner, who did not want to be named, yesterday denied they were vicious and said they were retaliating after constant teasing and tormenting from local kids.

She said it was the first time the American bulldogs had attacked another dog and they were friendly to humans.

But Ms Blackney claimed the dogs had broken through the fence before and people in the neighbourhood were petrified of them.

She said her children were now too scared to walk past that house \_ which backs on to Rosewall Primary School \_ on their way to the milk bar.

"Those dogs go right off. They bounce against the fence, they bark and growl and carry on," she said.

"A friend of mine who saw our dog get attacked said it was the cruellest thing she had seen in her life.

"What they have done is not normal - it's outrageous.

"It just scares me to think what would happen if they got hold of a baby or a small child ' they'd have no hope."

City of Greater Geelong health and local laws manager Gen Hindman confirmed local laws officers visited the scene of the incident yesterday and were investigating.

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