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Tue, July 8, 2008

'Horrifying' dog attack Man tackled canine to save wife, own dog

By MEGAN GILLIS, SUN MEDIA

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The city is seeking a court order to destroy a dog that viciously attacked another dog and injured a Carp-area woman.

Darren Gibb heard his pregnant wife Joanne screaming in terror in the backyard of their Carp-area home as he put their toddler to bed Wednesday.

He saw the neighbour's Bouvier, which had crossed their three-acre property, biting his gentle mutt Ike's throat before sinking its teeth into his wife's leg.



Darren Gibb sits with his dog, Ike, yesterday outside his Carp-area home, where the border hound and Gibb's wife, Joanne, were viciously attacked by a neighbour's dog last week. (JON WILLING/Sun Media)

SEVERED JUGULAR

Gibb had to twice tackle the animal, which at 130 lbs. was twice the size of their dog and outweighed his wife.

"It was horrifying -- the only thing that saved both of them is I was home," he said.

Ike escaped a severed jugular, but needed \$1,000 in veterinary care. His shaken wife needed antibiotics and a tetanus shot.

Gibb's horror turned to outrage when he discovered he wasn't the first to complain about the dog. He learned it had attacked another dog in an



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incident that was reported but never investigated.

Now he's sad for his neighbour who loves his dogs -- he has a second Bouvier -- but he's relieved his family and neighbourhood kids will be safe.

"My family will continue to live in fear until the process is finalized but I'm glad the process has started," he said, adding his wife is too shaken to go into the backyard or have two-year-old Maya play outside.

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City bylaw manager Linda Anderson said initially that it was the first complaint about the animal and that the owner had been sent a strong message yesterday with three tickets worth up to \$1,500 under the Dog Owners Responsibility Act, including a muzzle order.

But later in the day, her further investigation revealed city hall had received a complaint about a similar attack in April 2005, but it couldn't be probed because it didn't include the animal's address.

The complainant later called back with the address, but the incident was never followed up.

"I have sufficient reason to believe the temperament of this dog may mean we're safer to go with a destruction order," Anderson said.

She advises that people report any dog bite with as much detail as they can and, however difficult it might be to see a beloved pet attacked, resist the impulse to jump in when one dog attacks another.

It's much safer to use a blast of water from a hose, for example, to separate the animals.

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