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## Health unit probes death after dog bite

Sonja Puzic, The Windsor Star

Published: Tuesday, July 15, 2008

The family of a 60-year-old Windsor man who suddenly fell ill and ended up on life support says his death was caused by a dog bite he sustained several days earlier.

Richard Arcand was walking his dog, an Australian cattle dog and lab mix named Buddy, on Chatham Street about a week ago when another dog, a Husky, darted out of a house and attacked Buddy, said Arcand's niece Michelle Cojocar. As Arcand tried to separate the two dogs, the Husky bit him, leaving a small puncture on Arcand's thumb, she said.

Arcand went to a walk-in clinic the next day to get the bite assessed, and was told he would be fine and sent home, Cojocar said.



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### Handout photo of Richard Arcand on a recent visit to Las Vegas.

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A day later, Arcand began experiencing flu-like symptoms and went to Hotel-Dieu Grace Hospital, where doctors said that an infection, caused by the dog bite, had entered his bloodstream, Cojocar said.

Arcand's condition quickly worsened - his organs began failing and his skin, from his arms to his nose, was turning black, his niece said. He then suffered a heart attack.

Arcand died Monday after his son, Matthew Arcand, made the decision to take him off life support.

"(Doctors) told us it all happened from the dog bite," Cojocar said Tuesday. "I'm still in shock that an animal like that was allowed to run around the street."

Medical Officer of Health Dr. Allen Heimann said the Windsor-Essex Health Unit has placed the dog that bit Arcand under quarantine - following procedure when an animal bites a human - and is investigating. The hospital reported the incident to the health unit.

At this point, he said, a direct link between the dog bite and Arcand's death has not been established. The health unit is gathering information from the physicians who treated Arcand, Heimann said.

"The dog is in the custody of the owner and we are working with the owner," he said. "There is no risk to the public."

Heimann said there is no evidence that the Husky had rabies, but there is a possibility of a bacterial infection.

John Roushorne, general manager of the Windsor-Essex County Humane Society, said Tuesday he was aware of the incident and was waiting to hear back from the health unit.

Roushorne said he was interested to know why Arcand's death is being pinned on the dog bite.

"Whether that's speculation ... we don't know yet," he said.

Cojocar said her uncle did not have any known pre-existing medical conditions.

She said she was told the Husky was properly inoculated.

Regardless, the dog's owner should be held liable, said Matthew Arcand, who flew in from Calgary to bury his father.

"I love dogs, I love animals," he said. "But this should not have happened. The owner is responsible for their dog.

"My dad was trying to protect his dog. He lost his life for a dog."

Cojocar and Matthew said they planned to file a police report about the incident Tuesday afternoon. Cojocar said she knew little about the Husky's owner, other than her address and first name.

"We are very upset," she said. "No one is happy about this situation."

*If you're bitten by any animal - a raccoon, dog, or a bat - seek medical attention right away and report the bite to the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit at 519-258-2146.*

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#### COMMENTS ON THIS STORY

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Joe

Wed, Jul 16, 08 at 12:16 AM

I don't understand why the doctor at the walk-in clinic did not put this man on cautionary antibiotic treatment after an animal bite...it looks like to me a case of some kind of infection which quickly developed leading to the heart attack...the doctor at the walk-in clinic should be held liable...any animal bite should be treated with antibiotics...look it up...

Sigh

Wed, Jul 16, 08 at 12:57 AM

"The dog is in the custody of the owner and we are working with the owner," he said. "There is no risk to the public." How can you put that in one breath in in the first breath have that the dog darted out of the house and attacked his dog?? The dog should have blood tests done and be put into quarantine other then in the owners house because they can not obviously keep their dog in check. I am not saying destroy the animal but at least keep it locked where it can not only be protected from biting other but be protected so that no harm can come to it. My heart goes out to the Arcand Family. To the owners of the dog my heart goes out to the dog because we all know what is going to happen to that dog the owners will walk away and he/she will be cremated.

Ed Crane

Wed, Jul 16, 08 at 01:21 AM

I am truly amazed at the ignorance of dog owners. I live in a good neighborhood in south windsor. I walk a half hour every day and have seen dogs left unattended and without a leash many times as often as 2 or 3 times in my half hour walk. 2 dogs accosted me and one of them bit me. Despite reporting this to the humane society these dogs are still roaming around free and unattended on a daily basis. I saw them wandering around just yesterday while on my walk. The amazing thing is they are left to wander unattended on a busy, major artery coming off the 401. Stupid dog owners.

Irresponsible Dog Owners Again.

Wed, Jul 16, 08 at 01:30 AM

I was disgusted and angry after reading this story about the Husky that bit Mr. Arcand. Another dog story about people not being responsible to protect other people from their dogs. I've never read a story like this before. When in the \*\*\*\*\* are pet owners going to learn, to keep their dogs fenced in the yard, and away from the front doors when the letter carriers arrive at their homes to deliver the mail and keep their dogs ON LEASH when they walk them.

Those retractable leashes should be banned. Some people are so ignorant, they let the dog jot out about 5 or 6 feet in front of them only to have the dog run toward unsuspecting walkers and their children, scaring the hell out of all of us. I sure hope if it turns out this poor gentlemen died because of the dog bite, I hope they take darastic measures to deal with the problem. Unfortunately, this will not bring back Mr. Arcand. This is a very sad story. That could of been one of our loved ones. It is the owners job to make sure their dog is fenced in so it can't get out. If your dog gets out and attacks someone I hope you get sued to the max, you deserve to be sued. In 2007 there were app. 500 Canada Post Employees bite by dogs some people were mangled forever. The facts are the facts. I feel very bad for the family. I'd be finding out if it is true that, that dog had it's shots. People say that all the time when their dog bites someone because of the outcome. I love dogs so please no bleeding hearts today.

Bobby

Wed, Jul 16, 08 at 02:21 AM

PUT THE DOG DOWN

Martin

Wed, Jul 16, 08 at 04:59 AM

Very sad. Without minimizing the death of Mr. Arcand it should be said that at least as far the article has described it, his death was not due to rabies. This is the point now of my comment...We are shocked and disturbed deeply that a man has died from infection as the result of an apparently small bite from an animal. I am warning the powers that be in this city that the population explosion of skunks and raccoons poses a profound risk for the future, of one of the great scourges of mankind...rabies. It just happens to be considered 100% fatal in humans if the disease takes hold. It can not be cured if contracted and it is considered the worst way to die that there is. Skunks, raccoons (and foxes & bats) spread rabies. On this sad occasion the city fathers must get a grip, inform themselves of the facts and spend some money on a vermin reduction program instead of wasting our treasure on useless agendas. I call upon the administration and citizens of this city to inform themselves of the horror which is rabies and to act now before a substantial threat is entrenched. If the shock we have over the death of Mr. Arcand can result in effective disease prevention programs then his loss will be not in vain.

Jared

Wed, Jul 16, 08 at 07:04 AM

I am confused...The begining of the article states clearly tha the cause of his death was from the dog bite. Infact his niece says that the doctors told them that he died as a result of the dog bite. The middle of the article states that they are not sure if his death was caused from the dog bite. "Roushournne said he was interested to know why Arcand's death is being pinned on the dog bite. "Whether that's speculation ... we don't know yet," he said....Well if you dont know something isn't it speculation? I feel for the family and I think that they should know a little more about the owner of the dog than her address and 1st name. Also I think the dog should not be released into the owners custody until all the facts are known. It sounds like a lot of confusion over a simple ordeal. Keep the dog...do tests...rule out or confirm. Just my thoughts...

Barb

Wed, Jul 16, 08 at 07:20 AM

If the dog bite is found to be the cause of death, the owner should be charged with the death of Mr Arcand. And why is the dog still in the care of the owner? The owner let the dog escape in the first place! Bad owner, bad owner!!

Windsorite

Wed, Jul 16, 08 at 07:23 AM

My condelences to the family. I think all decisions regarding the dog should be put on hold until testing is complete. The largest problem - what about the clinic that told this man he'd "be fine"? That's horrible!

jr

Wed, Jul 16, 08 at 07:41 AM

My sympathy goes out to the family. I understand you are greiving and anger is a process you need to go through. Yes, this seems like such a senseless death. But hear we go again. It's always someone elses fault. What ever happen to ACCIDENTS happen. Number one rule I teach my kids. Never get in between 2 dogs when they are fighting. I'm sure the dog did not mean to bite this gentleman. Your right, the dog should not have been running around with out a leash on But like I said accidents happen. I'm sure the owner of the dog is just sick about the situation. I would also be asking why his body couldn't fight off the infection. I'm sure there are other health issues. If he was working at his own home and got cut and couldn't fight off the infection who would we then blame. Please consider the other family. Like I said my symapathy goes out to both families. What a freaky ACCIDENT!!!

CJ

Wed, Jul 16, 08 at 07:45 AM

my sympathy goes to this family. however, ontario: time to issue a ban on all huskies now.

WHY

Wed, Jul 16, 08 at 10:24 AM

The walk in clinic should be names for the public to be aware, since they told him it was ok without doing the proper precautions. I don't trust walk in clinics !!!!!!!!!!!!!

Jon

Wed, Jul 16, 08 at 10:45 AM

it seems like alot of doctors don't care about people anymore.

to Barb

Wed, Jul 16, 08 at 10:54 AM

you're a idiot ,the man got bit breaking up a fight between two dogs ,i bet if i was your dog that bit that man you would have a totally different opinion

to cj

Wed, Jul 16, 08 at 10:59 AM

why don't we ban anything and everything that might pos any risk to anything, i hate people like you stop trying to turn Canada into a nanny state

TOXIC SHOCK?

Wed, Jul 16, 08 at 11:08 AM

SKIN BROKEN = SHOT. REAL SIMPLE!

AY

Wed, Jul 16, 08 at 11:24 AM

dangerous dog...PITBULL...NOT!!!!!!!!!!LOOK OUT ONTARIO WILL BAN HUSKIES NEXT

CB

Wed, Jul 16, 08 at 01:46 PM

The cause of his death has not been determined. They suspect infection from the dog bite, but like JR said, it could have been an infection from something else. I have been bitten by animals quite a few times and I have never become ill. This man had a very weak immune system. A paper cut may have been the real cause. Wait till they find out for sure before raging about the dog.

Rob

Wed, Jul 16, 08 at 01:54 PM

Very simple.....MAJORITY OF DOG OWNERS ARE IRRESPONSIBLE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

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