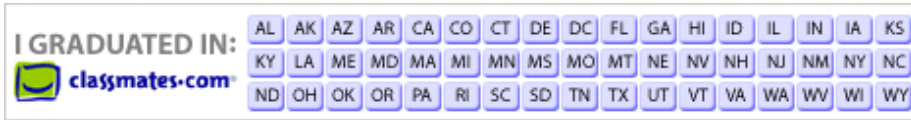


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'Ferocious' canine leaves Dwarka society fuming

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NEW DELHI: They say a dog is man's best friend. But a Dwarka resident recently had to bear the brunt of this man-animal friendship. Om Prakash, who owns a 5-year-old thoroughbred German Shepherd, was arrested after Goldy, the dog, allegedly bit a 12-year-old girl of the same locality in Vidyt Apartments of sector 12.

"My daughter, Soumya Rai, was playing in the society premises. At the same time Om Prakash took Goldy for a walk. The dog growled at her and she got scared. She screamed and ran away only to be chased by the erratic dog, which was no more in control of the master," said Soumya's father, Omkar Rai, director of a software park.

By the time Om Prakash, who is on deputation with RITES and works as a consultant for DMRC in Dwarka, reached the scene, the dog had bitten Soumya all over badly, alleged Rai. "She then fell on a bike and broke her teeth while the dog kept biting her. Meanwhile, Prakash after catching hold of the dog, walked off unaffected," he said. Enraged over the incident, Rai filed a police complaint at Dwarka police station. According to a police officer from Dwarka, a case was registered under sections 289 (negligent conduct with respect to an animal) and 325 (voluntarily causing grievous hurt) of Indian Penal Code. "We arrested Om Prakash for this offence but he was later released on bail," said the official.

To bolster his point, Rai said that the society's managing committee too had issued several notices to Prakash to abandon his dog. "It is a terror now. He tried to bite a maid recently in the lift. What is the point of keeping a pet when you can't control it?" asked Rai.

Treasurer of the managing committee DN Mishra nods. "We cannot allow such a dangerous and ferocious dog to roam around. Om Prakash had been given notices regarding the handling of dog and later on letting the dog go from time to time. We had discussed this issue in society meetings and also with Om Prakash, but he refused to pay heed," Mishra said.

Society secretary PN Prasad said that it had been decided that Om Prakash would leave the society by May 1, 2008, but because his transfer was due, he asked for some extra time. "We decided to let him keep the dog till he is not transferred. We wanted to settle the issue amicably," said Prasad. Defending his dog, Om Prakash said that he had been living in the society for the past five years and it was the first time that such an incident had occurred. "Goldy wouldn't have attacked the girl had she not screamed and started running," he said.

Stating that the society members were over-reacting, he said: "I don't think it was necessary to file a police complaint when this could have been sorted amicably. The matter is now in court. Only a dog lover can understand that to ask someone to just let go of their dog is impossible. They become a part of the family and it is unfair to even think of just leaving them one day because others have a problem." He added that since his deputation with RITES had ended, he was expecting a transfer any minute and would move out of the society soon.

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