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Pet attacked by vicious dog

By **James Rush**

A police officer was bitten on the arm by a dog which had mauled a man's pet as it roamed the streets.

The dog, believed to be a Japanese Akita, may now be destroyed after its owner was arrested for being in possession of a dangerous dog.

The animal escaped from its home in Park Grove, Frizinghall, yesterday morning and suddenly attacked a golden retriever being walked by its owner.

Father-of-three John Gardiner was left in a state of shock after the attack on his pet, Sally. Mr Gardiner, 54, of Frizinghall Road, Bradford, said he saw the Akita roaming freely as he took Sally for a walk at about 9am.

He said: "We were halfway down Park Grove and Sally was just sniffing around when I saw this dog in front of us.

"It looked like one of those fighting dogs and it suddenly pounced on her, took her down and was biting her.

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John Gardiner and his pet dog, golden retriever Sally, who was attacked by a vicious dog in Frizinghall

"Sally was barking and I must have managed to get the lead off so she could run out of its way. I was shouting for help and a gentleman got out of a passing car to help me get the dog off Sally."

Police were alerted and two officers arrived on the scene minutes later.

Acting Chief Inspector Paul Hepworth, of North Bradford Neighbourhood Policing Team, said: "When the officers got out of the car, the dog which had carried out the unprovoked attack was still roaming around.

"It bit one of the officers, PC Simon Naylor, on the arm in another unprovoked attack. The bite went through the officer's jacket and broke the flesh on his arm. One of the officers used a Bite Back spray on the dog but it didn't work. The dog ran off back to its garden, pursued by the officers. The owner of the house came out and chained it back up."

Acting Chief Insp Hepworth said the dog had supposed to have been chained up earlier but was not.

"The owner has been arrested for being in possession of a dangerous dog and will be prosecuted. The dog will be made subject of a court order and could be destroyed."

The dog was last night in police custody and its owner was being questioned. Acting Chief Insp Hepworth added: "We are concerned about these dogs and positive action is being taken, as can be seen with this arrest."

Mr Gardiner said he returned to the scene in his car - and was forced to use the vehicle to stop another potential attack.

He said: "A woman was walking up Park Grove and she hadn't seen the dog. It was walking towards her and I thought it was going to attack her so I drove my car in between her and the dog. It seemed to be going for anything that moved."

He added: "It is a dog that should be locked up in a yard - I couldn't understand why anybody would let that dog out into a neighbourhood where people are.



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"I saw the marks on the policeman's arm afterwards and they looked very painful.

"I just hope they take the dog off the streets and keep it off the streets."

Residents in Park Grove said they saw the dog wandering through their gardens.

One, who did not want to be identified, said: "My husband saw this big dog in our back yard this morning.

"I don't know what kind it was, but there is one that always comes on to our garden and fouls the place. It is a very vicious looking dog."

10:06pm today



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