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Dog attacks again

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EAST LIVERPOOL — A dog that was supposed to be removed from the area by the owner has been implicated in attacking a 15-year-old girl Thursday evening.

According to a report filed by Patrolman Chad Tatgenhorst of the East Liverpool Police Department, officers were notified of a problem along Riverview Street.

Upon arrival, Tatgenhorst spoke with the juvenile who said she and a friend were walking her dog on her aunt's property when another dog came from inside a neighbor's house and started attacking her dog.

The juvenile said the attacking dog was inside the house but pushed open the door and approached her when she picked up her dog. According to the report, the larger dog then began biting the juvenile's arm in an attempt to get at the other dog.

At some point the dog owner's son came out of the residence and got the attacking dog away from the victim and her dog, according to the report.

The dog owner, listed in the report as Scott Heimstra, was on the scene as paramedics were assisting the victim.

Heimstra allegedly told officers that his dog is an English bulldog, and Tatgenhorst reported that the same dog attacked his patrol cruiser back on Oct. 21, 2007, and also attacked another dog.

On Jan. 29, a plea agreement was brokered in that case.

Melody S. Bickerton, 53, of Park Boulevard, East Liverpool, entered a plea of guilty to failure to confine a dangerous dog.

Bickerton was to pay a \$200 fine and she agreed to surrender the animal to a breeder in Robinson Township, Pa.

On Oct. 21 of last year, John C. Thompson, 81, reported being attacked by two dogs while he was walking his own dog in front of his Park Boulevard residence.

One of the attacking dogs was a bulldog and the other was a black labrador. Thompson said at the time that the bulldog started biting his dog and had his dog by the throat.

Thompson sustained a visible cut to his forehead and said he was bitten by the bulldog during the incident. He said a passerby stopped and struck the aggressive dog with a stick to end the attack.

When police went to Bickerton's residence the day of the attack, both dogs came at the police cruiser and would not allow the officer to exit.

The officer had the police dispatcher call the residence to have Bickerton restrain the dogs, but no one was home.

In the meantime, the bulldog chewed holes in the right rear tire and then the right front tire of the police cruiser. Both tires were flattened.

The officer called the dog warden, and a neighbor familiar with the dogs came out and secured them on a leash.

The labrador was reportedly not aggressive during the incident.

As for Thursday's incident with what officials believe is the same bulldog, information was forwarded to the prosecutor for possible charges and the victim's family was advised to contact the health department.

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