

Dog Bite 911 Call Released

Reported by: Jeff Powers

Last Update: 12:06 am

🔊 [Dog Bite 911 Call \(219.1KB\)](#)

According to animal control, the dog which attacked a Spring Valley woman earlier in the week is not a German Shepherd. It's a Belgian Malinois, often used as police dogs.

We also learned, after talking with the woman's plastic surgeon, that her injuries were significant.

Sheriff's deputies tasered the Malinois as it ran through a yard in Spring Valley. The dog apparently did significant damage to Irena Michajlun. We found out exactly the extent of the damage from her Plastic Surgeon Dr. Dennis Nigro.



"Literally tore all of the veins off the backside of her hand," said Dr. Nigro. "Cut right through them."

Dr. Nigro says the victim is a piano player so the damage is that much more impactful. Dr. Nigro says he treated her for nearly 4 hours after the attack.

"Bite marks, puncture wounds, teeth marks on her face, forehead, back, a couple of severe lacerations on her arms," described Dr. Nigro.

This breed is very similar to the German Shepherd, although it is a little smaller. Dr. Nigro has seen a lot of attacks through the years but believes the frequency may be picking up.

"The attacking thing has changed," said Nigro. "I think that you see these dogs are attacking people a little bit more frequently than I can recall."

There may be some truth in that. From 2006 to 2007 dog bites in San Diego county are up 11-percent. The Department of Animal Services also shows that since January of 2008 there have been nearly 200 moderate to serious dog attacks.

"This is not a breed thing. We judge dogs on individual behavior not on breed specific," says the Director of Department of Animal Services Dawn Danielson.

The laws changed after Diane Whipple was mauled to death in San Francisco many years ago.

"They also made it, if your dog substantially injured someone and you knew, you could be charged with a felony," warned Danielson.

Earlier Report:



[Dog Attack](#) 5/27/08

A Spring Valley woman is in the hospital after being brutally attacked by a neighbor's dog. Tonight, that dog is dead. Erica Fox takes us to the area where a morning walk, turned violent.

Related Reports:



[Dog Watch List](#) 4/21/08

City leaders are thinking about singling out aggressive dogs and letting the public know where they are and what they've done. Antonio Castelan has details of the proposal. 4/21/08



[Pit Bull Attack](#) 3/13/08

Animal control officers are looking for a pit bull that mauled a woman walking to her car. Eric Collins spoke with the victim.



[Dog Mauled](#) 1/26/08

A pit bull mauls a yorkshire terrier at the Balboa Park dog park. Animal Services is investigating the attack and trying to determine if it could have been prevented.



[Dog Attack](#) 9/9/07

A 21-month-old boy is attacked by a dog at a Santee park. Kristine Lazar reports on the callous disregard of the dog's owner.