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Cygnets killed in dog attack

30 May 2008

FOUR cygnets were torn to pieces in a savage attack by a dog let loose by its owner.

The new-born swans were attacked just days after they had been photographed and appeared in the Recorder to highlight the glorious summer weather.

There are just two chicks of the original six left.

Swan rescuers, Alison and Mick Lyons, were called to the scene on Saturday morning in Harrow Lodge Park, Hornchurch.



The pair, who are also members of Harrow Lodge Conservation Group - an organisation that seeks to protect the interests of the park - had to bury the remains of the tiny birds following their brutal killing.

Reports from park users claimed the dog owner beat her hound for the carnage it caused, but Mrs Lyons said she should be responsible for her pet's behaviour.

"There were lots of small children around, many of whom had only come to the park to look at the cygnets," said Mrs Lyons. "Dogs should be kept under control, especially in the breeding season.

"People ignore this and let their dogs run into the water willy-nilly."

A Havering Council said: "The issue in this case was the owner of the dog not being in control of the animal and it was able to kill the cygnets. The Council has responded by placing notices in the park reminding dog owners to keep their dogs under control.

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