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Reporter: **Andrew Del Greco**

Neighbors Threatened by Vicious Dog; Owner Disputes Claims

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People in one Idaho Falls neighborhood say a vicious dog is a threat to them and their families, and they want Animal Control to do more to stop it.

On any given day, the few officers at Animal Control get up to 20 phone calls from people who are angry. Many of those complaints have come from Lovejoy Street - an unfitting street name, at least today.

Trisha Hardy, neighbor: "It's attacked a little boy, and my sister twice."

Trisha's friend and neighbor: "The dog is very vicious. It comes in and out of the gate as it pleases."

Debbie, Lovejoy neighbor: "He got up on the hood of my car and was growling at me and snorting at me."

Animal Control has cited the owner several times, including for possession of a vicious dog.

Tiffany Jones disputes her neighbors and the officers. She says her Mastiff mix is big, but not a bully.

Tiffany Jones: "He's 225 pounds and he looks mean, but if he bit you, you'd have injuries, and he hasn't bitten anyone."

Neighbors on Lovejoy say the Mastiff is a threat, and have had trouble with Tiffany's other dogs, who've tried to get through gates to charge them.

Trisha's friend and neighbor: "I'd like to see the dog put down, even though I'm a dog lover."

We were hoping to see the dog, but Tiffany says after thousands of dollars in citations, she's complied with Animal Control and moved it out.

Officers say they can't confirm whether the dog's gone - or just indoors. They do say one bite of even a pant leg or clothing, and the dog will be put to sleep.

Debbie: "Vicious dogs have killed people. Why wait until something like that happens?"

Tiffany believes this is selective persecution from neighbors and control officers whom she's stood up to, fighting for the right to own large animals.

Tiffany: "My first dog they put to sleep, my Huskie, I spent over \$4,000, I lost my

home and lived in a homeless shelter just so I could keep him... It was for eight dog-at-large tickets in three years. I still didn't get to keep him."

Trisha's friend: "There's a lot of children in this neighborhood and that's who I worry about."

There are several different sides to this story, depending on who you talk to. Neighbors say a local boy was bitten. Tiffany says a judge only cited her dog for charging after the boy when he threw rocks at the dog. Animal Control says it has no formal reports from neighbors who say they've been bitten by an animal owned by Tiffany Jones. But Animal Control does believe the dog has a vicious tendency.

Animal Control says despite how busy they are, they encourage people to call them to report aggressive animals at 612-8671.



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