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Dog escapes death sentence despite attack near school

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A DOG which attacked a woman near a primary school will escape a death sentence if it is kept muzzled, a sheriff ruled today.

The animal, an Alsatian cross named Cass, bit Lorraine Brown on the leg as she walked to work earlier this year.

At Edinburgh Sheriff Court today, owner Deborah Davidson admitted her three Alsatians had been dangerously out of control at the time.

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Sheriff James Scott fined her £100 and said her pets would be destroyed if they are not kept under control and muzzled.

Mrs Brown was walking to work along a footpath behind Colinton Primary in Edinburgh at 10.30am on May 12 when she encountered the dogs.

One Alsatian ran over a bridge barking and growling and jumped up on her before another similar dog bit her on the left leg, ripping her trousers.

A third dog also arrived barking, before Davidson, 49, appeared.

When Mrs Brown showed her the injury and her ripped trousers, Davidson replied: "Its okay, its just grazed".

Police were called and Davidson was traced. She told officers her dog Cass was responsible.

Today, Davidson faced a string of allegations involving the dogs and pled guilty to one of ten separate charges.

Her not guilty pleas to the other nine charges, which included claims her dogs bit two nine-year-old boys and two boys aged 12 and 15, were accepted by the Crown.

Solicitor Matthew Nicholson, defending, said Davidson lived with her 17-year-old daughter and received disability living allowance for back and heart problems.

The dogs were excited when together and Cass in particular could be "nervous", he said.

"She accepts that the three dogs together were excited and she should have had them under control on a public path," he added.

Since the incident, the three dogs had been taken into care by the SSPCA, but the eldest had escaped from the Edinburgh cat and dog home and had not been seen since.

Davidson, of Colinton Mains Drive, Edinburgh, was "desperate" to get the remaining two dogs, Cass and Junior, back, said Mr Nicholson.

Sheriff James Scott said: "Unless the dogs are kept under proper control they are to be destroyed.

"Junior and Cass are to be muzzled when they are outside her home, whether it is a public or a private place."

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