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Horror dog attack was 'nature'

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By sarah cliss

A WISBECH cat owner has been left badly shaken after witnessing her pet being savaged by a dog. And to add to her upset Carol Gibbs was shocked to learn that cats have no protection under the law and that police cannot take action against the dog owner.

The incident happened at around 7am on Friday in the back garden of Carol's Osborne Road
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"I heard scuffling on the gravel and I looked out to see what was happening. I saw a dog had cornered our cat Zack and was attacking him.

"I didn't dare go out and tackle the dog because it was quite big, really stocky and I was worried it might turn on me.

"My son went out with a stick and tried to distract the dog by shouting at it and that worked. But by then it was too late," said Carol.

She contacted police but was upset to be told there was little they could do as "dogs chase cats".

However, she said: "I'm an animal lover and I don't want the dog destroyed, but I think there should be something the police can do. The dog should not have been allowed to wander about."

The family have had Zack for 10 years, since he was a kitten, and have been left really upset at the way he died. "He was a lovely cat, he didn't wander too far," said Carol.

A police spokesman said investigations revealed that no law had been broken and that the dog owners had taken reasonable action to ensure the animal was kept in the garden.

But it had somehow managed to get out of the secure garden, probably by jumping a quite high fence, to chase the cat.

The spokesman said there is no law regarding a dog straightforwardly killing a cat – it is considered to be 'nature', the same as a cat killing a mouse or bird.

She said it was not a case of the dog owners being irresponsible and allowing the dog to just wander off.

However, the spokesman said if the cat owner wanted to she could pursue a civil claim.

The spokesman added Fenland's dog warden would be visiting the dog owners to ensure the animal is not an illegal breed – although she was fairly certain the dog did not fall into this category.

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