

[back to article](#)

TIMESDAILY.COM

Dogs attack, injure woman

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Published: Monday, September 8, 2008 at 3:30 p.m.

TUSCUMBIA - Authorities are trying to locate the owner of two boxer bulldogs that attacked and mauled a Tuscumbia woman Sunday morning while she was walking a small York terrier.

Reports indicate Melissa York was attacked by the dogs while she was walking her parents' dog on Third Street near the East Street intersection.

"(The small dog) had just gotten onto the sidewalk; I looked up and saw the two big boxers running towards us," York said. "They started nipped at her and when I tried to get away from them, one lunged at me."

York said she was holding the small dog high above her in an attempt to protect the animal as the two boxers continued to jump on her, bite her and scratch her.

"I tried to climb a tree; I was trying to do anything to get away," York said. "I was screaming, hollering for help."

York said she was bitten on her arms and suffered scratches on her low back as well as the backs of her legs.

"I was terrified. I truly thought I was going to die," York said.

She said people driving by stopped and helped her. York was taken to Helen Keller Hospital in Sheffield where she received medical treatment for her injuries.

Witnesses said a woman got the dogs and took them away.

"Our attention is on trying to locate the owner of the dogs to find out if the animals are properly vaccinated," said Tuscumbia Police Chief Tony Logan.