



Around The Region

Pack attack dogs returned to owner

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The pack of three dogs that allegedly killed two neighborhood dogs and injured another were returned to their Grand Island owners Wednesday.

Central Nebraska Humane Society Director Laurie Dethloff said the dogs were returned after society staff inspected kennels at the owner's property. The kennels met the specifications outlined in city code for use in holding an animal deemed to be "potentially dangerous," she said.

Such kennels must have embedded sides, a top, a padlocked gate and signage.

The dogs were also current on rabies shots and required no 10-day hold period for observation.

The three lab-mixes were confiscated Saturday night after they attacked a puppy in a neighboring yard and bit the puppy's ear off.

The dogs are co-owned by Patty LaBrie and her ex-husband Terry Beeder. They are kept in the backyard of LaBrie's home at 216 S. Sycamore.

LaBrie's backyard is adjacent to two other yards, whose occupants have reported past attacks on their own pets by the LaBrie/Beeder dogs.

Bobbie Depue, 117 E. Court, said her miniature pinscher puppy was pulled under the fence and killed as the dogs acted aggressively under "pack mentality" in 2007.

A similar incident was reported in 2006 by Stacy Simmerman of 115 E. Court when she had a dog attacked at the fence and killed by the pack. Simmerman had another dog attacked in 2008 and is pursuing civil action against LaBrie in that case.

Simmerman also reported the Saturday attack on her 11-week old lab puppy that resulted in confiscation of the LaBrie/Beeder dogs.

City code specifies that any animal that kills another domestic animal can be deemed "dangerous" and be subject to euthanization.

However paperwork in the 2006, 2007 and 2008 incidents was misplaced during transitions at the Humane Society, Dethloff said. Without the paperwork, those incidents cannot be documented and included in the case against the pack dogs.

"The animal control officers are following the city code," Dethloff said.

Lead animal control officer Steve White said the pack dogs must be in the kennels or in the house when their owners are gone. When off their own property, the pack dogs must be leashed and muzzled. They can be unmuzzled and unleashed in their own yard as long as their owner is present and controlling them, he said.

Neighbors have expressed concern about the safety of children in the area as there are a couple of day cares nearby.

The dogs' yard is also located a half block from the front door of the Hall County Administration Building, where the public goes to get motor vehicle licenses, driver's licenses and marriage licenses.

"It's a tough situation for everybody," Dethloff said. "The Animal Advisory Board and the Humane Society, as well as the city attorney, will be working to protect the safety of the community and the animals."

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