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## **Dog Pack Attacks Lead Rural Residents To Arm Themselves**

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**CASTRO VALLEY, Calif.** -- Residents of an East Bay neighborhood said they're arming themselves against a pack of dogs after a series of attacks on animals.

The attacks took place during past few weeks along a rural stretch of Crow Canyon Road in Castro Valley.

Residents said that in the latest attack, several German Shepherds tried to kill a baby calf in its herd. Dogs attacked a herd of pygmy goats several weeks ago, killing three and injuring three more.

Ric Plummer, the goats' owner, said early morning screams from the animals alerted him something was wrong.

"They were in a frenzy," said Plummer of the dogs. "They started killing the goats. And they wouldn't eat them. They would just kill one, attack it at the throat, and go to the next one and attack it."

Two of his goats died immediately. A third died later.

Plummer said he cornered one of the dogs in a barn until animal control officers removed and euthanized it.

A neighbor said it appears the two remaining dogs returned three nights ago and attacked a herd of cows,

It remains unclear whether the dogs are wild or pets.

"Sometimes even family pets, when they get into groups with other dogs, will go out and attack," said Sergeant J.D. Nelson of the Alameda County Sheriff's Office. "A lot of people think 'Oh my dog will never do that.' But I've seen on many occasions. When they get together, kind of like people sometimes, they do things they don't normally do."

Some people who live near where the attacks occurred said they are carrying weapons at night if they have to go outside and locking up their animals for their safety.