



## Mayor to decide fate of dog after fatal attack

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Staff writer

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— AMESBURY — The town will be working with Animal Control Officer Harold Congdon to decide the fate of a golden retriever that attacked a Pomeranian on Highland Street, causing injuries that ultimately killed the small dog.

Congdon said the golden retriever, who is known to police and has had run-ins with animal control in the past, came out of his owner's backyard Saturday afternoon and ran after a man walking a Pomeranian. The Pomeranian's owner told Congdon the latest attack was the third from the same golden retriever over the past several months.

The man suffered a bite to his hand as he tried to separate the two dogs.

"It was a bad situation," Congdon said. "The Pomeranian was rushed to a veterinarian in Epping, where the dog died of cardiac arrest on the table."

Congdon said he has ordered the golden retriever to be muzzled whenever it is outside and has brought the situation to Mayor Thatcher Kezer.

"Each city or town is different," Congdon said. "I have requested the mayor to take action with the Municipal Council. This dog cannot be going after smaller dogs."

Kezer said the incident will not go before the Municipal Council — that is something that only happens in cases when euthanization has been ordered.

"I just received a report from (Congdon), and I'll be touching base with him on it (tomorrow)," Kezer said last evening.

"What typically gets appealed to the council is if there's a recommendation to euthanize," he said. "That's not the recommendation, according to the letter I got from the animal control officer. It's not the first time that's there's been a call (on this dog)."

Congdon also cited the owner of the golden retriever for violation of the town's leash laws.

"This is a frequent offender, and I won't tolerate this," Congdon said. "I don't have time to tolerate it."

Staff writer Lynne Hendricks contributed to this report.

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