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Elderly man hurt in dog bite attack

(<http://www.pioneerlocal.com/parkridge/news/1700898.park-ridge-dogbite-080609-s1.article>)

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An 82-year-old Park Ridge man suffered a serious leg injury after he was bitten by a neighbor's dog in his own back yard.

Paul Trudeau was taking his garbage out about 11:40 a.m. July 17 when two German shepherds charged at him in the alley behind his North Aldine Avenue home, said his wife, Mary Lou Trudeau.

Using his large garbage can, Paul Trudeau tried to block the dogs -- which belonged to a neighbor across the alley -- from reaching him, Mary Lou Trudeau said. He then tried to back up into his back yard, but the dogs followed.

"He threw the garbage can down, the dogs pushed the gate open, he went down on both knees and they both went after him," said Mary Lou Trudeau, who witnessed the scene from her home.

One of the dogs bit Paul Trudeau on the leg before both animals were called back to their own yard by a resident of the home, his wife said. Paul also reportedly suffered scratches and bruising.

"He limped over and he had a big bite on the back of his leg," the victim's wife recalled. "He was bleeding so bad so I wrapped a dish towel around it."

Paramedics transported the injured man to Advocate Lutheran General Hospital. He is still dealing with the wound he suffered, which must be cleaned and wrapped every day for at least the next two months, Mary Lou Trudeau said. There is also concern about infection as Paul Trudeau has two artificial knees, and a serious infection could require another knee replacement, she added.

The injury has also reportedly prevented Paul Trudeau from performing household chores and other things he enjoyed before the attack.

"It's such a mess. It's taken so much out of our lives," Mary Lou Trudeau said.

The owner of the dogs was cited by police for owning dogs that were running at large and for failing to obtain city licenses for the dogs, said Park Ridge Police Cmdr. Lou Jogmen. The owner will appear before the city's adjudication court hearing officer, who will determine a fine.

A neighbor who lives near the Trudeaus said the incident has made her apprehensive about spending time in her own back yard.

"I like to garden, but I'm leery of being out in the yard," she said. "The dogs could probably jump my chain link fence because they are so huge."

Cook County law requires a dog that has bitten someone to be checked by a veterinarian within 24 hours after the bite has occurred. The veterinarian must then send a report to the Cook County Department of Animal and Rabies Control documenting the health of the dog. The animal must also be confined to its home for a period of 10 days following the biting incident.

Recently two Park Ridge residents were each attacked by a pit bull who was running at large in two separate incidents. Despite these recent attacks Jogmen said it does not appear that reports of biting dogs have increased this year.

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