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Woman Bitten By Boston Police Dog

MATTAPAN (WBZ) — A 60-year-old woman was bitten by a Boston police dog Wednesday morning in Mattapan.

It happened on Sturbridge Street just after 10:30 a.m.

Boston police superintendent William Evans said the woman was walking her daughter's miniature pinscher down the street when the unleashed German shepherd attacked.

WBZ spoke with the woman, Leola Parker, after she was released from the hospital.

"I didn't realize how bad I was dripping blood," Parker said. "My clothes were covered."

The K-9 was apparently going for Parker's dog and went after her when she went to pick her dog up.

"By the time I made it to the corner this big German shepherd came out of no where and picked him up and was shaking him," Parker said. "I grabbed him out of his mouth, and once I grabbed him I raised him up high."

She was taken to Boston Medical Center where she was treated for wounds to her abdomen and cheek. She also needed stitches on her lower lip.

Police commissioner Ed Davis went to the hospital to personally apologize to the victim.

Parker's dog was taken to [Angell Memorial Animal Hospital](#) for treatment and is expected to be OK.

Evans said the canine somehow got loose from its kennel and was not on a leash. He said the police department has no history of any issues with the dog. Boston police say the dog's name is Fritz.

Fritz stays with a Boston K-9 police officer who lives on Sturbridge Street. WBZ has learned the veteran officer is William Willis, who was off-duty at the time.

K-9 officers take their dogs home with them when they're not on duty. Public records indicate the Sturbridge home belongs to William Willis. His [Web site](#) says he's a Boston police K-9 officer with a side business as an animal photographer. Some photos on the site show police dogs in training.

Parker said Willis immediately ran over to her to help.

"He looked at me and hollered, 'Oh my God,' he said, 'You need to sit down. You don't realize how badly you are hurt.'"

Fritz is now in the custody of Animal Control. His vaccinations and immunizations are up-to-date, so there is no danger of rabies, according to Evans.

The dog is quarantined and will be evaluated, as is usual in any dog bite case. Fritz is trained to detect drugs, firearms, and explosives.

Willis and his wife were also taken to Boston Medical Center as a precaution.

Parker said the incident is a reminder to all dog owners to keep their pets on a leash.

A police spokesman said he doesn't expect Willis to be disciplined. He said it appears to be an "unfortunate accident."

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Leola Parker was released from a hospital hours after being bitten by a police dog in her neighborhood. WBZ