



Cops let down dog-bite victim

By Mpume Madlala

An Amanzimtoti woman has expressed great disappointment in the SAPS and the Metro Police who she claims failed to help her mother after she was mauled by a neighbour's dog on Monday morning.

Candice McFarlane said the incident happened at about 11.30am when her mother, Stephanie Kruger, 57, was walking in her yard after collecting her post. "The dog jumped the fence and grabbed her arm tearing a huge chunk of flesh from it before swallowing it," she said.

McFarlane bundled her bleeding mother into her car and rushed to Kingsway Hospital.

She claims she phoned the SAPS just after midday to take the dog - a German shepherd - away, but when they arrived, they said they could not deal with the situation because it was Metro Police's responsibility.

"They then phoned Metro Police for me, and I was told that a van would be at the house within an hour. I waited and waited, phoned them five times, and Metro kept telling me to wait, a van was coming. At 5.10pm, I was phoned by a Metro policeman who told me there was no one coming because the SAPS had to deal with it," she said.

McFarlane said when she phoned the SPCA, they also referred her back to the SAPS.

Metro Police spokeswoman Joyce Khuzwayo said dogs fell under the city's bylaws only when they were strays and needed to be controlled. "In this case, the dog has bitten someone, which means a case will need to be opened. This means the SAPS will have to deal with it," she said.

SAPS provincial spokesman Vincent Mdunge said Kruger could open a case against the owner of the dog.

"The dog is still in the neighbours' yard. My mother is 57 years old, and will never recover from this," McFarlane said. Kruger is still in hospital and will be operated on on Thursday.

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