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Noise From Hearing Aid Causes Dog To Attack

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ORANGE COUNTY, Fla. -- An 86-year-old woman was badly injured in a freak animal attack Tuesday. When her hearing aid fell out of her ear, it beeped so loudly the family dog attacked her outside a home in the Hunters Creek subdivision.

The dog has been quarantined for at least ten days of monitoring and the 86-year-old victim's injuries are being described as severe.

The black dachshund mix named Sammie was still dazed and squirmy as his owner tried to load him into Animal Services' truck after the attack. Just minutes earlier, the owner says the high-pitched squeal of a hearing aid sent the dog into a vicious attack on an elderly woman who lived in the home.

Kevin Robertson saw the family waiting for the ambulance.

"She was just out on the ground and she was probably in shock. It looked like she was in shock," he said.

The victim's family said she had just let the dog out of the front door her and was in the front yard, bending over to leash the dog up. That's when her hearing aid fell out, hitting the ground and letting off a high squeal that can irritate even the human ear.

But the noise, which is actually microphone feedback, was apparently enough to send Sammie into a violent frenzy.

Hearing aid specialist Christopher Nault told Eyewitness News he's never heard of animals becoming violent because of the sound!

"I've had animals reacting to the sound. They might play with the hearing aid. Cats, especially, bat is back and forth," he said. "[But] I have not heard that."

For neighbors, too, it was truly a freak accident.

"Sammie was a sweet little thing and he was over here in my yard earlier today," neighbor Karen Robertson said.

Animal Services will run tests on Sammie and monitor him for rabies for ten days. The family has that long to decide what to do with the dog.

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