

[Print](#)

Bakkie driver stops dog attack

10/03/2009 09:03 - (SA)

Arisja Jacobs, Beeld

Standerton - A motorist came to the rescue of a man who was being attacked by a pack of Boerbulls, using his bakkie to chase the dogs away.

The Boerbulls attacked Johan Ackerman, 30, as he was walking home from a clinic with his wife, Wynette, their baby son Martin (11 months), his sister-in-law, Leonie Kruger and her two children, René, 2, and Kian Botha (8 months).

The dogs tore off his left thumb, as well as a large piece of flesh and nerve from his calf. His left arm and right leg also had deep, open wounds.

The dogs belong to Frik Breytenbach, a local scrapyard and garden service owner.

"The animals took him down and went for him in the field across the street," said Alida Liebenberg, a neighbour.

She tried in vain to chase the dogs away with a pitchfork. The bakkie driver then came to the man's rescue.

She said it wasn't the first time the dogs had bitten someone. "The dogs have bitten three other people, including the gardener, John, who has been working for years for Frik and his mother, Tannie Sarie, 90."

Neighbours have demanded that the dogs must go.

Abraham and Triphine Nkosi said they had also had run-ins with the dogs. "Fortunately, Abraham threw stones at the dog," Triphine said.

Breytenbach denied that there had been previous incidents. "I have been breeding for years with Boerbulls. I can't say how I feel about the matter as I didn't see what happened."

He said he wouldn't put the dogs down. "They protect my mother."

He referred any enquiries to his broker, Frik Combrink, as he apparently had "insurance covering incidents like this".

Several operations

Ackerman had to undergo several operations and is currently under heavy sedation in the Witbank hospital.

"I didn't tease the dogs. When I was 3 years old, a dog bit me, that is precisely why I don't do it," he said on Monday.

When Beeld visited Breytenbach's house on Monday, three dogs were in the back yard and a fourth was kept on a chain in the front yard.

Ackerman's wife said this wasn't enough, but her husband had said on Monday that the dogs should not be put down.

Police are investigating the case, but Breytenbach had not yet been charged.

Jenneth Geel, senior inspector of the Hoëveldrif Animal Rescue Association believed it would be better for the community if the dogs were put down.

Beeld