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## Bulldogs attack pair

Kids at school playground in danger, says victim

By **ROSS ROMANIUK, SUN MEDIA**

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Two dogs have been impounded while an Elmwood couple is trying to heal from serious bite wounds after the canines attacked them Wednesday evening.

Paul Chard and his wife Wendy were injured while trying to fight off the American bulldogs in a lane behind their house on the 200 block of Johnson Avenue about 7:30 p.m.

"I don't scare easily, but that scared me," Chard, 35, said yesterday of the attack, in which he was bitten on his lower left leg and upper rear left thigh after falling down while running from the animals.

Wendy Chard, 32, was bitten near her right knee by at least one of the dogs, which the couple said are owned by a woman living two doors away.

Both victims were treated with tetanus shots and/or stitches at Concordia Hospital, and released hours later.

Police were called when the couple eventually escaped from the dogs -- about five minutes after the attack began -- by running into their garage as the canines chased them into their yard.

Officers at the scene called the city's animal services agency, whose dog handlers nabbed and impounded the canines.

Tim Dack, head of animal services, confirmed the bulldogs -- larger and heavier than regular bulldogs, with longer legs -- will remain locked up at a Logan Avenue pound for a standard 10-day quarantine "just in case the dogs bit because they're rabid."

'Last resort'

But while the city is eyeing possible animal biting and "running at large" charges against the dogs' owner -- with minimum fines of \$350 and \$100, respectively -- the animals stand a good chance of being returned to her.

"Putting down dogs is certainly the last resort," Dack said.

The dogs' owner, reportedly named Lisa Davy, could not be reached for comment.

The incident began when Paul Chard saw the canines running loose in the lane and attacking another dog while a woman was walking it. The couple ran to help, and to warn anyone at a nearby school playground to stay away.

The bulldogs then ran toward them while the other woman and her pet walked away.

"They chased us right back to our gate. I didn't even have time to open it. Then I fell over, and was starting to kick them away. That's when they bit my leg," Paul Chard said.

Chard said authorities are asking for trouble if the dogs are returned to their owner.

"They have to be put down," he said. "There's a school right there. There's a playground. If that was a kid, I hate to imagine what would have happened."

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