

Banned Nantucket dog's bite worse than its bark

By Renee Nadeau | Saturday, September 26, 2009 | <http://www.bostonherald.com> | **Local Coverage**

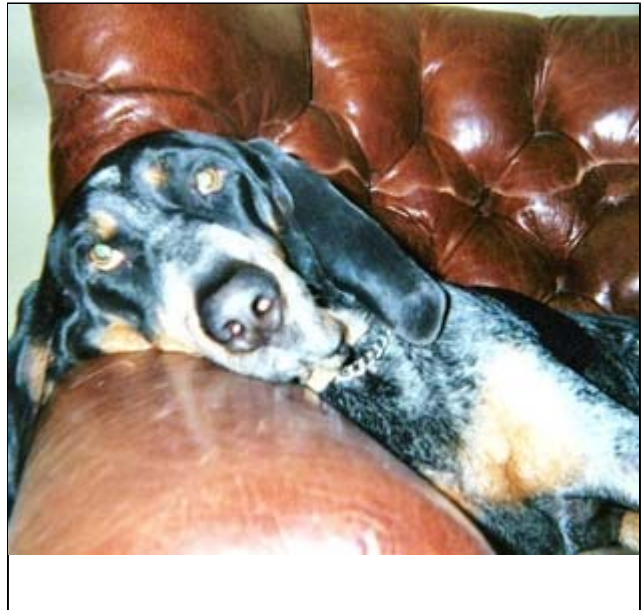
Toney Nantucket has long frowned on rowdy rabble-rousers running amok on their privileged sanctuary - but now one four-legged party animal has found himself banned from the swanky isle.

Lester, an 8-year-old Bluetick Coonhound who had summered on Nantucket for six years, was unanimously voted off the island at a Board of Selectman hearing Wednesday after several neighbors complained the pooch had bitten four people.

"The dog had a history of noise (and) barking issues previously," said chairman Michael Kopko.

Even after Lester's vocal chords were surgically altered in an attempt to quiet the hound, "it commenced to biting people," he said.

Owner Amanda Aslansan, 40, of Philadelphia said Lester bit only one person, when he chomped down on a passerby's leg after being taken past the invisible fence around the family's summer home.



"I feel terrible that I have a dog that bit someone, but do I think he's vicious? No," she said.

She noted that his breed is prone to howling, which continued even after Lester's vocal surgery nine years ago.

"I think he's a nuisance more because of his noise," she said.

Aslansan sent a letter requesting the hearing be delayed to allow her to attend, but it was received too late to reschedule the meeting, Kopko said.

Aslansan said she likely will not appeal the selectmen's decision.

"We'll still come to the island. We'll just have other plans for Lester," she said. "Maybe he'll go to some doggie spa."

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