

## Judge Says Dog Bite In Brainerd Was Worse She Has Seen

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City Judge Sherry Paty said Thursday the dog bite a woman recently received in Brainerd is "the worst I have ever seen."

Judge Paty, who presides over local animal cases, did not, however, declare an akita who bit Jaime Curtis as a potentially dangerous dog.

The judge said owner Mark Beasley had been out walking his dogs when Ms. Curtis approached and tried to pet the dogs as she had done in the past. It happened off Ms. Curtis' property on a sidewalk on Idlewild Drive.

Judge Paty did say that Mr. Beasley must muzzle the dogs when he goes on his morning walks.

She said, "I think Mr. Beasley has been very responsible in the way he handles his dogs short of having them muzzled."

Mr. Beasley said he had not had them on muzzles before because of the need for protection from other dogs and from suspicious people he sometimes encounters.

Ms. Curtis said she had to have 27 stitches in her right arm and it is expected to take up to a year to heal. She said she has some nerve damage and the wound is still painful. She said she has no strength in the arm and cannot mop or do similar tasks.

But she did not ask that the akita, named Smokey, be put down. She said, "We are all dog people. It's a doggy neighborhood."

She said the memory of the incident is blocked out. "All of a sudden I was getting morphine," she said.

Ms. Curtis said she had not considered the akitas as dangerous. She said, "I have little yippie dogs and they just walk right past them."

Mr. Beasley said the two dogs had not seen Ms. Curtis in a while and seemed to welcome her as she walked down a hill. "They were wagging their tails. They were happy. I just never thought anything like this would happen."

Then he said Smokey growled and, when he jerked back on his leash, he grabbed Ms. Curtis by the arm and took her down. He said he kicked the dog to make it let go of the grip on her arm.

The judge ordered Mr. Beasley to pay for boarding Smokey 10 days at the McKamey Animal Center, but said he can pick up the dog on Sunday. He also must pay for tags and shots that were out of date.

He said there had been one prior incident in which the female akita had injured another

dog. He said he is still making payments to the dog's owner in that case.

In another case, Judge Paty also did not declare James Siegel's lab mix a potentially dangerous dog.

In that case, a woman's small dog had gotten loose on the third floor of the apartment complex where the Siegels live. The small dog ran down to the second floor just as Mr. Siegel was about to take his dog for a walk.

It was testified that the small dog yapped at the lab mix and he attacked it. The dog's female owner ran down to rescue her dog and got her pants torn and blood on her from a bite by the lab mix.

Judge Paty admonished the woman to keep her small dogs on leashes.