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# **Neighbors: Vicious Dog Stops Door Mail Service**

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People living in one Springfield neighborhood say a vicious dog is stopping their mail service. The post office won't deliver to their doors because of problems with one animal.

A "Beware of Dog" sign is posted on a fence just off Kansas Expressway and Eagle Avenue. Neighbors say this sign is all too true. "It is an admission of guilt your knowingly advertising you have a vicious dog," neighbor Tommy Brashears said. He says he's aware of the German Shepherd mix that lives at the home. "He has run us off of our own porch," Brashear said. "I've seen him attack a fella coming down the road on a 10-speed."

The postal carrier who works the stretch of Eagle Avenue in north Springfield says he was chased too many times. "In neither case has a carrier been bitten -- but they have been chased," Postmaster of Springfield Bill Brayman said.

He says the post office sends three letters to dangerous dog owners to contain their animals. After three strikes, anyone within roaming distance of the dog is out. The post office won't deliver mail there. Brayman says mail carriers will set up a radius based on how far the particular dog roams. Anyone living within that area will have to pick up their mail from their delivery station.

"We did not get any phone calls, any letters -- that's obvious," neighbor Dennis Mount said. "Sometimes we can't get out of the vehicle to deliver the letter not only to the dog owner but the customers and neighbors surrounding the owner," Brayman said.

Many neighbors say not everyone in the neighborhood has the means to drive over a mile to the post office delivery station. "We've got to make it safe for our carriers as long as that dog roams that area we got to protect our carriers and unfortunately the neighbors of the owner of that dog are negatively impacted," Brayman said.

KSPR News tried to contact the owner of the dog. We knocked on the door but the owner would not answer. A woman identifying herself as the dog's owner called KSPR News to say her dog is not the problem. She said other dogs roam the neighborhood. "I'd like to see the appropriate officials step up to the plate, take responsibility and initiative and address the problem instead of punishing everyone on the street for one person's misdoing," Mount said.

Neighbors and the postmaster of Springfield say they've contact the health department and animal control about this dog. KSPR News called animal control to check on citations or possible action but as of news time Wednesday night no calls were returned.

The post office will decide by next week if the situation improved on Eagle Avenue or if it will require neighbors to install mailboxes on the street

Brayman says only two neighborhoods in Springfield are not getting mail delivered because of vicious dogs. About 42 customers are forced to pick up mail at nearby delivery stations. Since 2008, Springfield postal carriers reported 30 bites, attacks or being chased by dogs.