

## City of Ballarat investigates savage dog attack

BY KIM STEPHENS  
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A BALLARAT North woman yesterday said she looked on helplessly as two hunting dogs attacked and killed her eight-year-old cat last week.

City of Ballarat regulatory services manager Andrew Bellingham yesterday confirmed that two stag hounds, one of which had blood on it, were captured in Walker St by council rangers last week.

However, he said an investigation was under way into whether the dogs killed the woman's cat, the outcome of which would determine if they were to be destroyed.

Samantha Robinson said her cat Sid was sunning himself in her driveway about 11am on Friday when she heard dogs growling outside.

"I heard this commotion outside and went out and saw a tangle of animals," she said.

"They dragged Sid down the driveway by his head and then around the corner.

"He must have got loose and tried to come home over my neighbour's fence.

"I went out the back door and could just hear him screaming. It's the most distressing sound I have ever heard in my life."

Ms Robinson said the dogs attacked her cat again in her neighbour's yard, tearing him apart.

"They ripped his mouth, ripped between his back legs, he had a gash on his left hand side and down his throat," she said.

"I'm not the type of person to call for animals to be destroyed but these dogs are hunting dogs and know what they are doing.

"I'm just worried it could be children next time."

A passerby who stopped near Ms Robinson's house at the time of the alleged attack said she saw the two dogs enter the front yard of a Lydiard St home.

The woman, who declined to be named, said that after entering and leaving a nearby property within a matter of minutes, the two dogs ran past her again, one of them covered in blood.

"My only concern was more for children in the area; they were hunting dogs without collars and unrestrained," she said.

"(Ms Robinson) was distraught and every animal in the area was going berserk."

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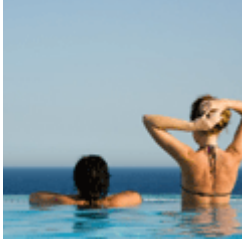
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