

# Dog Attacks Owners To Defend Its Mate

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A Warren County bulldog is in quarantine after it attacked it's owners.

To get away from the dog, members of the family locked themselves in their rooms upstairs until the fire department rescued them.

Animal control experts say the male dog went into a frenzy because it believed its mate was being attacked.

The Warren County family owns two dogs, a female Rottweiler and a male bull dog.

Dale Fleming, who is on crutches after the dog's attack, says it all started when he tried to get the female dog off of his foot.

"When I said get off he just come running in. I turned around and he just jumped up on me and he ended up getting my ankle somehow," said Fleming.

His brother-in-law James Williamson heard him yell.

"I ran down the steps and seen it," said Williamson. "My sister was trying to pull the dog off so I yanked him away from the dog."

So Williamson dragged Dale upstairs and shoved him in a bedroom, and after he was bitten in the waist and the arm, he got into the bedroom with the rest of the family.

"We were in the rooms and the dog was loose in the house," said Williamson.

For Lisa Williamson it was like a scene out of a movie.

"I had two kids right there in front of me bleeding and I had a dog at my door barking," said Williamson.

The fire department brought them down out of the bedrooms.

Despite the attack, which isn't the first, Williamson defends the dog.

"He is a very humble and good dog and he don't bite unless he is triggered," said Williamson.

The dog belongs to another son who is coming home soon.

When 9News photographer Chic Poppe asked what will happen to the dog now in quarantine, Lisa Williamson replied, "It's his decision what he's going to do with the dog."

A recommendation has been made to euthanize the dog.

Just last month the Ohio Supreme Court, in a 4-3 ruling, said a woman whose dogs were ruled vicious should have a means to appeal.

Dog wardens say the ruling is creating confusion in how to deal with vicious dogs.

It used to be that animal wardens could identify a dog as vicious and require the owner to confine it and buy extra insurance. Then, they could impound the dog and fine or jail the owner for noncompliance.

An assistant prosecutor in Columbus says cities will need to strengthen their laws in light of the court ruling and set up animal review boards to get dog owners a means to appeal.



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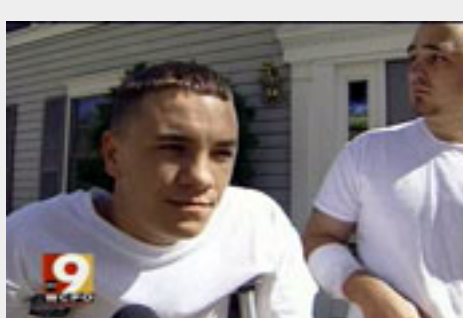
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