

Townsville Bulletin

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Loved pet mauled

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A VINCENT family who watched in horror while their neighbour's German shepherd dragged their family pet from its leash and mauled it to death is still waiting for the council to declare it a dangerous animal.

But Townsville City Council said it had been inundated with an unusually high number of dog attacks, many serious.

In the past month there had been 25 dog attack cases which council officers are investigating in preparation for court action.

Tracey Drummond said the terrifying attack on their 11-year-old jack russell named Jaq happened just after daughter Aishley, 11, and cousin Simone, 9, walked the dog down their Clements Cres driveway.

The two children were on the road verge in front of the neighbour's house when the dog appeared.

"Their fence was open and the male German shepherd ran out from under the house and literally dragged Jaq from his collar and leash," Mrs Drummond said.

"We are just so lucky it wasn't the kids who were attacked.

"Neighbours heard the girls screaming and came out to help but it was too late for Jaq.

"The dog had taken him back up his driveway and he died just as they got to him.

"That was more than two weeks ago and we have been told it is likely the dog will be declared dangerous but we are still waiting for that.

"The kids are very angry now because they walk out the back door and they see the dog that killed their pet, every day.

"We don't want him dead -- that's not our nature -- but I just don't want it to happen again or for the kids to be in danger.

"It has been hard for my husband too because he is in Iraq and he needs to know that something is happening."

Mrs Drummond said a council officer had told the family it was likely the German shepherd would be declared a dangerous dog.

A Townsville City Council spokesman said an animal officer visited the family the day after the attack at 6pm on Saturday, September 3.

The spokesman said 11 of the recent dog attacks were rated severe, 10 were moderate and four were not serious.

That is compared with 111 attacks Townsville City Council investigated last year.

"There has been an outbreak of dog attacks," the spokesman said.

"These statistics are alarming to us.

"We understand this is upsetting for anyone who loses a pet and we are reassuring this family that we are investigating.

"This attack is at the high end of serious cases that has been reported to us."

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