

[EXTERNAL] public comment- Nov 19, 2024 Re: Case #24-2923

From Megan Mason [REDACTED]
Date Mon 11/18/2024 3:43 PM
To Public Comment <PublicComment@yville.com>



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Dear Mayor Mohler & Town Council,

I am sending this to you via email as I am unable to attend this Town Council meeting. I will be having Orthopedic surgery for multiple fractures in my right wrist, inserting a plate and several pins.

The reason for the surgery is because at 8:45 am on November 7 while I was walking our Golden Retriever with my husband, we were viciously attacked by a pit bull. We were in the intersection of Larkspur and Heather.

We were walking slowly, as my husband had major heart surgery 3 weeks prior. I had our dog, Fred, on leash. Looking down to the next block of Larkspur and Mulberry we saw a lone, gray pit bull with no leash or owner.

He stared at us and before we could turn, he ran down the street and started to attack and maul my dog. He bit him tirelessly, starting at his hind quarters, going up to his neck. I was pulling at my dog to get him free, but the pit bull had a clamp like hold on him. Large chunks of my dog's fur lay on the ground and during the attack my dog lost control of his bowels. I was screaming for our lives for several minutes. Our neighbor, Ryan Dick, heard my screams and came out of his house. Seeing we were in a deadly attack he went to his garage and retrieved a pipe. To save us from the pit bull, Ryan had to hit the dog several times. Finally, the dog backed off and walked back down the street to a woman and they disappeared.

While the attack was in process, my husband was knocked down to the pavement on his back, unable to get up. Another neighbor, Stuart Alexander and his wife, Pat, came to help, assisting my husband off the pavement and me too. They brought out chairs for us to sit on and catch our breaths.

We checked our dog and were amazed and blessed that the bites had not punctured his skin- probably due to the thickness of his coat and wearing 2 collars. As a result of the attack, I had fallen hard on my wrist which looked to be at a 45-degree angle and dangling. The Alexanders drove me to the ER; letting my husband and dog recuperate. My husband was still unable to drive due to his surgery. While getting in the car I collapsed as my left leg had been hurt during the attack. Stuart, using his EMT skills got me in the car and put a splint on my arm.

The Orthopedic Surgeon diagnosis is a "right wrist distal radius open reduction internal fixation and possible right wrist carpal tunnel release." Twelve days later I am having surgery on the wrist I use for everything.

Something must be done about this attack and the inevitable future attack on a child, smaller dog, an elderly person, or an unsuspecting tourist! Napa Animal Services has said there is nothing more they will do. Eight days after giving my verbal report to Victor Caravantes, I received a copy. It is lacking accurate information and no follow up. He states the attack was a 'scuffle'. He does not say if the pit bull was current on his rabies and license. He recommends no further action. After speaking with James Baumgartner from our Sheriff's Office, while sympathetic, said there was nothing else to be done.

I am asking for your help. This dog needs to be euthanized. I also am proposing we develop an ordinance on pit bulls and dangerous dog for Yountville. Even better would be to have it for Napa County!

As a sidebar, this is the second time a dog of mine (Welsh Corgi) and I have been attacked by a pit bull in Yountville.

Please help keep us safe and protected from future attacks from vicious dogs and irresponsible dog owners.

Thank you
Megan Mason