

DG police forced to revisit 'vicious' pit bull, owner

By Kevin Stahr

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A Downers Grove woman who was ordered to properly restrain a pit bull deemed vicious by a Downers Grove Field Court judge Feb. 2 committed another violation later that same day, according to police.

Kelly Becvar, 25, 244 Lincoln Ave., pleaded guilty to letting her dog, Taz, run at large, which resulted in two attacks in 2003 on dogs being walked on a path near Becvar's home.

Judge Eugene Wocjik fined Becvar \$75 and ordered her to keep the animal enclosed in a 6-foot fenced-in area, in a

dog run or in a cage. Becvar told the judge Taz's encounters with two other dogs last year were "nondangerous" during the brief court hearing.

Just more than eight hours after the hearing, Downers Grove police visited Becvar's house on a complaint Taz was running outdoors and unrestrained. Becvar has a 4-foot fence in the yard, which does not meet the height requirement ordered by the judge.

Police said Becvar was cited for failure to restrain a vicious dog, and was warned by officers to keep the dog muzzled and leashed with a chain tested up to 300 pounds if it is walked in public.

The case has been turned over to the village's Code Enforcement Department, which has the authority to seize the dog. Attempts to reach Code Enforcement officials, as well as Becvar, were unsuccessful.

According to Downers Grove police reports, Taz attacked a dog being walked by neighbor Lisa Casey May 3, 2003. Najm Mashomakalee, 34, who also resides at 244 Lincoln Ave., was outside with the dog talking to a neighbor when he alerted Taz to Casey's dog, police said.

Mashomakalee separated the two dogs, but then let Taz go, resulting in a

another attack, the report states. The owners told police Taz was only playing with the other dog, according to the report.

Casey said Feb. 3 she thinks Downers Grove should just outlaw people from owning pit bulls.

On Dec. 23, another report was filed after Becvar came home and let Taz out of the car unrestrained. Taz then attacked another dog being walked nearby, the report stated.

"I'm horrified by this situation," Casey said. "My biggest concern is there is going to be a kid walking down this path not knowing about this dog."