

Vacaville must ban pit bulls

Reporter Editor:

Article Launched:03/04/2007 07:33:39 AM PST

It is appalling that uncontrolled pit bulls in Peña Adobe Park caused the death of a horse ("A breed apart," The Reporter, Feb. 18). Unfortunately, that attack is but a pimple on what happens daily within the city of Vacaville.

I own two terriers (a Jack Russell and a cairn).

There is a city ordinance that all dogs are to be on leash at all times in the city, unless confined to a fenced area or confined to the house. I walk my dogs daily on Vine Street or in Andrews Park. With the leashes, I maintain the required control.

About once a week, my terriers and I are attacked or threatened by pit bulls. I prudently always carry two containers of pepper spray for defense. These are often used to halt contact.

On one occasion, we were accosted by a pit bull that managed to get a mouth full of hair from the cairn terrier. On that occasion, I had to swing both dogs by their leash as I squirted the pit bull with the pepper spray.

The pit bull departed yelping. The owner, who witnessed the attack, attacked me with a scatological verbal assault for what I had done to defend myself. He was a 20ish nut that actually had a pit bull tattooed on his right bicep. Like his dog, he was all mouth, but his teeth were not as sharp.

Vacaville City Council needs to take a leadership position and outlaw these dangerous animals. We have seen other communities where children have been killed or maimed. Do we need to wait for it to happen here?

Barry Wells, Vacaville