

Neighbors Help Save Girl, Mom From Pit Bull Attack



Joel Thomas (http://cbs11tv.com/bios/local_bio_100192438.html)
Reporting

(CBS 11 News) DALLAS An eight-year-old girl is now in fair condition and recovering from a vicious pit bull attack. The attack happened on the 3200 block of Chihuahua in west Dallas.

Neighbors said they'd never noticed anything unusual about the two pit bulls before. But the dogs turned on their owners, turning their driveway into a bloody mauling scene.

Montrice Richardson saw the attack. "That little girl, that's all I can think about," he said. "She had a gash, a bite on her leg... A little girl like that, I'd rather it'd be me than her."

Suzana Moralez locked herself out of the house. She sent her daughter Natalie over the gate of the carport to find a way in.

That's when their two pit bulls attacked. The girl was trapped behind the gate as the dogs mauled her.

Neighbors heard her screams. They rushed to the chaotic scene, but the dogs seemed unstoppable.

"My husband went for sticks, for rocks. We threw water on them," said neighbor Edna Cantu. "The dogs would not let her go. [Her mom] jumped in to try to help, and the dog bit her in the arm and face."

Neighbors faced two challenges: getting the dogs off the mother and daughter, and then escaping over the gate before there was another attack.

By the time they freed the two, Natalie had been severely injured.

"I picked her up and carried her," said neighbor Juan Cantu. "She looked like she wanted to faint. The girl had bites on her legs and the mom on her arms."

Animal control wouldn't release pictures of the dogs, only a card identifying them as Staffordshire Terriers -- pit bulls.

Willie McDaniel, Dallas Animal Services, said, "I know tons of Staff Terrier owners who have wonderful pets, so it's not the dog."