

When Pit Bulls Attack

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*A Warren County woman wants justice after her puppy was attacked by a pit bull.*

Denise Clark said while she was taking her puppy, Moe, outside on March 11, 2007, her neighbor's pit bull ran into her yard and killed him. She said the same dog then ran into another neighbors yard and tried to attack them.

The owner faces vicious dog charges because the Warren County Sheriff's Department could only cite him for his dog killing another dog. In order for a dog to be taken away for bad behavior it has to actually bite a person.

Sarah Goebel will tell you how you could be held responsible for your dogs behavior.

"If he comes back in my yard again i will shoot and kill him," Clark said.

Clark can't understand why pit bull's are so aggressive. In Moe's six months of life, Clark never had a problem with him.

"I really wish they would make some kind of law if you own these kinds of dogs - like you have to keep them contained at all times," Clark said.

Humane Society Director, Lori Hare, said it's not the pit bull's fault.

"The pit bull is a breed that has a really bad misconception. They're a wonderful wonderful breed of dog but they get a bad rep unfortunately because their owners are bad owners," Hare said.

Clark said she's never seen the owners mistreat their pit bull, but after Moe was killed she couldn't help but worry what the dog could do next. So, Clark talked to the owner who seemed responsible.

"He assured me it would never hurt a child but you never know with those types of dogs," Clark said.

Hare said this breed of dog is usually aggressive because the owners don't properly train or socialize their dog. She also said spaying and neutering your pet can help with aggression.

"The female dog that was being aggressive had puppies, and a lot of time can make them more aggressive," Hare said.

The dog is so strong that it has been known to break away from it's chain and run loose, and since there are no Warren County leash laws state law applies.

"By state law your dog has to be confined from sunset to sunrise - during the night time hours," Deputy Hopkins said.

Which doesn't matter for Clark's dead pet who was attacked during daylight hours.

"I should be able to take my dog for a walk and not worry about it," Clark said.

Clark's demanding the amount she paid for Moe and court costs from the owner of the pit bull.

"Unfortunately the dog is the one that's going to pay the price for this," Hare said.

Hare also said the pit bill could be taken away or put to sleep if she attacks a person next.