

... dogs are killing machines' says mauling victim

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By **CHERIE WARD**
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MOSS POINT -- A 14-year-old boy was nearly attacked by a pit bull in the same neighborhood just hours after Randy and Ruth Kimbrough were assaulted by a pair of vicious pit bulls Sunday morning.

"Those dogs are killing machines," Randy Kimbrough said from his hospital bed Monday. "I heard her (Ruth Kimbrough) screaming and I knew it was those dogs. I wondered if I had time to run to the back and get something to use against them. But, then she screamed again and I knew if I waited she would not have survived."

The Kimbroughs were at-tacked by their neighbor's two pit bulls Sunday morning outside their Danzler Street home. Randy Kimbrough is the pastor of the Moss Point Presbyterian Church and was in his office preparing for a baby's baptism when the incident occurred.

The dogs first jumped Ruth Kimbrough on the porch of their home. Ruth Kimbrough managed to scamper inside the house while her husband screamed and kicked at the dogs. When Randy Kimbrough was returning to the house after getting his keys, the dogs jumped him from behind. He managed to shake free and run in the house.

"Her arm looked like a spiral ham," Randy Kimbrough said. "There was just flesh hanging from the bone and blood all over."

The pastor drove his wife to Singing River Hospital. Both under went surgery Sunday for their injuries and are in stable condition.

Asked what was the first thing he thought when he felt the dogs teeth tear his leg, Randy Kimbrough said, "You don't really think about the pain. Just getting away. I guess adrenaline kicks in and takes over. They yank you one way and you try to yank yourself the other way."

The dogs are being held in the Jackson County Animal Shelter, said director Bill Richman. He said he does not know the fate of the animals. Richman refused a request to photograph the dogs.

"That will be up to the Moss Point Police Department," Richman said. "It's their case. Not ours. We are just confining the animals for them."

Dana Brown, mother of the boy who was nearly attacked by a different pit bull Sunday night, said the neighborhoods are overrun with pit bulls. She said Moss Point police were called about the dog that tried to attack her son Sunday night, but little was done.

Brown also said this is not the first time the dogs that assaulted the Kimbroughs have attacked. Brown said her son and one of his friends were attacked by the same two pit bulls in October and a police report was filed.

Brown said she and her neighbors pray something will be done about the animals that are allowed to roam freely before something even more tragic happens. She said they are like prisoners in their own homes.

"What happened to that couple (the Kimbroughs) is our worst nightmare come true," Brown said. "We love our city. We love our neighborhood. But, something's got to be done."

Brown said several residents plan to attend tonight's Board of Alderman's meeting to express concerns about the dogs.

Moss Point Police released few details Monday.

According to the press release issued by the department, Ruth Kimbrough heard the dogs barking and feared for her cat. She went out to the porch to chase the dogs away and was attacked by two large pit bulls. Randy Kimbrough heard his wife's screams and ran to her aid. Randy Kimbrough managed to chase the dogs away and called the police. He then ran to get his secretary and was attacked by the dogs. Both victims were transported to the hospital by private vehicle and treated for injuries.

Police Chief Demetris Drakeford did not return phone calls to The Mississippi Press Monday.

Dog attacks are more a people problem than a dog issue, according to Dr. Randy Lockwood, senior vice president with the American Society for the Prevention of Animal Cruelty

"You've got to look to the pet owners for responsibility," Lockwood said. "Are the dogs being properly contained, raised correctly and treated fairly? Any dog can be dangerous if not treated properly. The nature of the problem begins with the owners."

Lockwood said he believes pit bull are attractive to people who are simply irresponsible pet owners and the communities and city officials should hold them responsible for their pet's actions.

"It's the only way to control the situation," Lockwood said. "Through the police and the communities."

He said because of irresponsible pit bull owners, some responsible owners are denied homeowners insurance.

"Some insurance companies have a list of breeds they will not insure through the homeowners insurance policies," Lockwood said. "Pit bulls are usually first on the list."