

Joliet woman mauled by pit bulls

Tribune staff report

June 17, 2007, 10:45 AM CDT

A Joliet woman was attacked by two pit bulls in an alley in Joliet late Saturday, police said.

The woman, 22-year-old Stephanie Nielson, was in an alley in the 0-99 block of South Cagwin Avenue with her cousin around 11 p.m. when she was attacked. Nielson was taken to Provena St. Joseph Medical Center with numerous bites that are not life-threatening but will require plastic surgery.

The owners of the dogs, who live in the same block, were cited by Joliet police and Will County Animal Control, Lt. Gordon Corp said, but he did not know the exact charges. The dogs remained with their owners, he said.

In an interview with CLTV today, Erica Pantoja said she and her cousin were coming home from watching fireworks late Saturday. When they got to Pantoja's driveway behind the house, the neighbor's pit bulls ran out and attacked Nielson.

Nielson fell to the ground, trying to fend off the dogs. Pantoja ran into the house to get help. According to Pantoja, the dogs ripped huge chunks out of Nielson's arm that will require skin grafts.

Copyright © 2007, Chicago Tribune