



MONTEREY POLICE DEPARTMENT

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On September 10th, 2020 at approximately 11:26 a.m., Monterey Police Department (MPD) Officers were dispatched to the area of Cielo Vista Drive regarding a dog attack. The subsequent investigation determined a woman was walking her two small dogs on Cielo Vista when she was approached by two loose dogs (Cane Corsos, also known as Italian Mastiffs), that belonged to a resident on Cielo Vista. The female attempted to turn around and walk away from the Mastiffs but they followed her and became aggressive.

Both Mastiffs attacked and bit the woman's two dogs. The woman attempted to intervene and protect her dogs and she was bitten on the hand by one of the Mastiffs. A male resident observed the attack and came to the woman's aid. The male began striking the Mastiffs with a wooden cane. The male was knocked to the ground and bitten on the leg by one of the Mastiffs. The Mastiffs then returned back to their residence.

When officers arrived on scene, they encountered the two Mastiffs still loose and on their owner's property. Officers attempted to call the owner but were unsuccessful. Officers received assistance from the Seaside Police Department's Animal Control Officer and seized both Mastiffs.

The woman was transported by ambulance to CHOMP for punctures and lacerations to her hand. The male received puncture marks to his leg and sought his own medical treatment. The woman's dogs that were attacked were transported by private vehicle to an emergency veterinarian. One dog died as a result of the attack. The other dog was treated for bite wounds and is expected to survive.

The Mastiffs' owner, Leslie Flores, 55 years old of Monterey, was later contacted and will be cited for multiple misdemeanor violations including: Vicious dogs MCC §6-28, Dogs running at large prohibited §MCC 6-10, and unlicensed dog §MCC 6-17. Based on the vicious and unprovoked nature of this attack, the Monterey Police Department will work with the City Attorney's office to petition the court to declare the dogs as vicious and not allow the Mastiffs to be returned to the owner. The City will request that Flores be prevented from owning any dogs for a period of three years.

In December 2018, Leslie Flores was cited for; Vicious dogs MCC §6-28, Dogs running at large prohibited §MCC 6-10, and unlicensed dog §MCC 6-17. Those citations were in connection to three incidents involving a third Mastiff Flores owned that was subsequently surrendered by Flores after the City Attorney's Office pursued a civil action against Flores. Pursuant to a court stipulation and order, Flores agreed to surrender that vicious dog and it was euthanized. Flores also agreed to keep any dogs in his possession indoors or in an enclosure suitable to prevent young children from entering and designed to prevent escape.

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