

On March 30, 2026, my dog, a Yorkshire Terrier named *Sage*, was fatally attacked by my neighbor's dog. My eight-year-old son and I had gone to our backyard shed to grab his soccer nets, with Sage following close behind as he always did. He must have walked around behind the shed onto the neighbor's yard, because moments later we heard the unmistakable sounds of a dog attack.

When we turned the corner, we saw the neighbor's dog with Sage in its mouth, shaking and chewing him. The grip was so tight that I had to wrestle the dog to the ground and pry its mouth open. My son was then able to grab Sage, and we rushed him for emergency surgery. Despite every effort, Sage did not survive due to the extent of his injuries.

We immediately filed a report with the police department. During email communication with law enforcement, I was told there was nothing they could do because the attacking dog was considered a pet and was on its owner's property. This response was deeply concerning, especially because this was not the first issue we had experienced with this dog. As a parent of young children, I am alarmed by the dog's unprovoked, predatory behavior and the danger it poses.

#### *Documented History of Aggression*

##### 1. Repeated Concerning Behavior

We frequently walk with our two children, and from the beginning this dog has made us nervous. Even inside the house, he jumps against the glass with such force that it sounds like it could break. Outside, he runs violently to the end of his tether, and we have seen him off-leash on multiple occasions.

The owner would sometimes drive an RC car up and down the street and allow the dog to chase it. While technically allowed, this behavior—combined with what we had already observed—made us uneasy.

##### 2. Prior Attack on Our Dog Nora

Last summer, our female Yorkie, Nora, required surgery after an incident involving this same dog. We did not pursue that situation further because Nora ran toward him and provoked the interaction. Although heartbreaking, we acknowledged that our dog initiated it. However, even in that moment, the owner struggled to control his dog.

##### 3. Previous Homeowner's Incident

After Nora's incident, our neighbor informed us that the previous homeowners had also experienced an attack involving this dog. Documentation of her letter is included in this packet. That incident falls under the city's vicious animal ordinance, and veterinary records can be provided if needed.

#### 4. Witness Accounts of Threats to Children

Our current neighbor has personally witnessed this dog come dangerously close to harming children on more than one occasion. These firsthand accounts reinforce that this is not an isolated or unpredictable event—it is a pattern.

Since bringing this issue forward publicly, several others have shared their own experiences with aggressive pets causing injury, and additional neighbors have expressed similar concerns about this specific dog. Many actively avoid walking past the house if possible. This is not normal behavior for a household pet. I have had dogs my entire life and understand that dogs can be protective. But when a dog displays this level of unprovoked aggression—rather than normal warning signs like barking or growling—it becomes a serious safety risk and a liability within the neighborhood.

#### *Request for Council Action*

I am deeply concerned about the ongoing risk this dog poses to our neighborhood. Based on the documented pattern of unprovoked aggression, prior attacks, and repeated safety concerns, it is evident that this dog meets the definition of a vicious dog under our municipal code.

I respectfully request that the Council review all documentation and compare it to the city's ordinances so this classification can be formally acknowledged and the appropriate steps can be taken to protect our pets and our residents.

#### **Enclosures**

- Letter from Denise Sesker (previous homeowner)
- Ari's shirt from the night of the attack
- Photo of my leg after attempting to rescue Sage
- Message from Neighbor (different from the one previously mentioned) with safety concerns