

ANDY SQUIRES
Constable / Animal Control Officer
Town of Richmond VT
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Telephone 802-434-2533, cell 802-363-7162

I received a notice of a dog bite from Richmond Family Medicine on 6/28/21 at 1550. Report of multiple bites on both legs and the left arm. Victim identified as Amy Powers of 836 Snipe Ireland Rd, Richmond, VT. Richmond Family Medicine was sending Powers to UVMMC for further treatment as the injuries were more extensive than RFM could treat. The dog was identified as “Oakley” belonging to Janet Gill of 838 Snipe Ireland Rd, Richmond.

I checked the dog registration list and found “Oakley” is registered for 2021, a mixed breed, male, black/brown/white with rabies vaccination expiring 11/15/23. Reg. Tag 181. He was also registered in 2020 with tag # 174

At 2017 that evening I left a voicemail on Powers cell phone to call me.

0922 on 6/29/21 I received a call from Amy Powers. She described being on her property talking with neighbor Janet Gill with “Oakley” present. They were near the property line along a stream on Powers side of the line. “Oakley” made a sudden attack on Powers lunging and changing from limb to limb. Bites were on the front of both legslocation on legs..... and her left arm on the inferior forearm. Gill made constant loud commands to try to get the dog off and then pulled the dog off from Powers.

At 1400, 6/29/21, I discussed this case with Adam Wood, Town Health Officer. We agreed that the situation made a 10 day confinement for rabies observation a necessity. Confinement at home is acceptable. The dog must not be allowed outdoors without a leash. It must not roam even on his own property.

At 1415, 6/29/21 I discussed the case with Chief Kapitansky. We reviewed the town ordinance and the relevant state statutes.

At 1630, 6/29/21 I met with Amy Powers at her home to take a Vicious Dog Complaint and fill out the Health Officer’s Animal Bite Report form. Powers stated that she was on her property near the brook, a location where Gill has been welcome to swim for the 20 years the Powers have lived there. They were talking pleasantly when “Oakley” started a vicious attack on her legs and arms. Gill and her grandson (about 10 yo) tried to get control of the dog but he became more aggressive. They first tried verbal control then pulled him off. Powers was bleeding and got into the stream while Gill lay on top of the dog so Powers could go to the house. Powers went to Richmond Family Medicine where they referred her to UVMMC for more extensive treatment than RFM could provide. She needed stitches in both legs near the knees and the left forearm. They also X-rayed the left arm to ascertain whether or not there was any bone injury. There was not. But there may be some tendon injury. She does not have the use of her left arm distal to (below) the injury.

“Oakley” has been aggressive in the past. He would growl and charge people in the driveway. He has nipped at her son’s heels while he was biking in the driveway. This is the first time he has made contact with anyone. Gill and Powers share about 100’ of driveway before the drives separate to the different houses.

There is a “Forest School Camp” next week June 5-9 where 25 kids age 4-15 will be on Powers property all day every day. The kids come once a week at other times. Powers fears for the safety of these children if “Oakley” is loose. The dog does not come to Powers house but the camp kids are in the woods all around Powers land.

Injuries as I observed were:

- Right leg, lateral aspect slightly superior to the knee, stitches
- Left leg, lateral aspect at the knee, stitches
- Left forearm, medial aspect. Described as being the deepest of the injuries, X-ray showed no bone damage but suspected tendon damage. No MRI confirmation. Stitches.
- 1/8” laceration on first knuckle of right hand
- In total, 4 puncture wounds required stitches
- Described bruise near the left hip
- photos provided by Powers

After visiting Powers I went to Gill’s house. She was not home. I observed two anchored dog cables on the stairs to the house. These would seem to provide adequate ability to hitch the dog securely.

At 2032 6/29/21 Gill returned my phone call. She described the encounter as follows. We (Gill and grandson with dog) were at the stream. Grandson and dog were playing in the water. Amy came up next to us, surprised her and the dog. They started talking about some mulch. The dog went over to sniff Powers, she recoiled and he reacted, lunged at her. Amy had torn shorts but Gill wasn’t sure if it was bites or scratches.

She describes “Oakley” as a rescue dog that has had many issues and was to have started specialized training soon. She also said she would talk to the rescue organization from whom she got the dog to discuss them taking him back.

I told Gill that due to “Oakley” having bit a person off premises that required medical attention we require a 10 day quarantine, meaning that the dog must not be off leash or off premises for the 10 day period. Also that we had a vicious dog complaint that required a hearing by the Selectboard. We would be back in touch as that process progresses.

0930, 6/30/21 I had a text exchange with Powers where she asked for an update. I related the conversation with Gill. She said that “the dog being hitched is not even remotely sufficient. That is how the dog is normally but he gets away and then she is screaming for him. She has no control of him”

I emailed Gill the following at 1329 6/30/21:

Hello Janet Gill,

Last night you and I discussed the dog bite and Oakley. I wanted to reiterate for clarity that we must have Oakley in quarantine for 10 days, 6/29 through and including 7/8/21. Quarantine means he cannot be loose outdoors at any time. When he goes outside he

must be on leash at all times. I did see good anchored cable leashes on you stairs. I do not know whether or not those reach the door. If not, he must be leashed from the door to the cable.

I do not say this to be threatening, only for clarity so we avoid any misunderstanding. If he gets away and breaks quarantine I will have little choice but to impound him. I prefer to keep him at home.

Thank you,

Andy Squires

Constable / Animal Control Officer

Town of Richmond, VT

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Amy Powers (6/21/73)

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Janet Gill

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Left knee



Left hip



Right knee



Left arm



Arms comparison, some swelling on 6/30