

# Dog bite case: \$500 fine given as a deterrent

Continued from page 1

2 (g) as amended. The JP told the court the \$500 fine was given as a specific and general deterrent.

There is a range from \$250 to \$1,000 for this type of offence, keeping in mind that people are sometimes not in a position to pay large amounts and add to that, it usually costs \$350 to \$400 to euthanize a dog, said Marina Booton, Supervisor of Enforcement Services Town of Halton Hills.

Under the Dog Owners Liability Act, the dog must be restrained or confined in a fenced enclosure to provide for public safety in a manner which prevents release or escape of the dog from the defendants property, including any other property from which the dog is kept or harboured and shall remain under the direct supervision of a competent adult. While the dog is outside the residential property of the defendant the dog shall be kept under full control of a competent adult capable of physically restraining the said dog at all times, using a leash not to exceed 1.8 metres (six feet) at all times, court documents say.

So that the dog is close by and they can control it. They aren't to use one of those roller leashes that expand and retract and kids can't take the dog for a walk, Booton explained.

The dog also needs to be fitted with a muzzle of sufficient size and shape and strength to humanely and adequately prevent the dog from being able to bite or by way of its mouth have con-

tact with a person or other domestic animal. The order goes on to say that the above stipulations should apply to every owner of said dog. Calka should immediately notify Town of Halton Hills in writing of any transfers in ownership or location of the dog or euthanization of said dog, according to court documents.

Let's say they move three streets over, they need to let us know, Booton said. At court, the defendant did indicate that she was looking at euthanizing the dog. Everyone loves their dog. It's a difficult decision to make but sometimes people come to the realization that it's the logical thing to do. If and when this happens, she has to notify the Town of Halton Hills in order to close this (court) order.

After repeated attempts to talk to Calka, she told *The Independent & Free Press*. You can write your article but I refuse to comment.

Dona Izquierdo, the mother of the child whose right leg was injured by the dog attack, was surprised to learn that the case had come to a conclusion.

Nobody has called us from the Town. It adds fuel to the fire. Dogs can kill and they have, Izquierdo said. This should have been dealt with better. We are looking into pursuing further legal action. ... My daughter is the one with the scar on her leg. She lives with fear, Izquierdo said.

The Izquierdo family has since moved from Weber Dr. but remain in Georgetown.

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