

Daxton Borchardt Dog Attack Synopsis  
Incident Report #13-007281

**March 6, 2013 12:46:** Initial 911 call comes in from Dispatch, from Susan L. Iwicki, advising her dogs attacked her and the 14 month old baby under her care. Iwicki reports the child has multiple facial injuries and was not breathing. Also advised that one dog was contained in the house, and the other was still on the loose.

**First Officer on scene,** Deputy Kenneth Brauer, gets out of car and makes verbal contact with Iwicki, who was waving to him from the front door of the house, while talking on her cell phone. As Deputy Brauer is looking at Iwicki, he reports that a “brown and/or black pitbull” began trotting up the driveway towards him. Deputy Brauer pulls his firearm, as he is unsure of the temperament of the dog, and the dog slows to a walk before approaching him. Deputy Brauer makes the determination that the dog is not going to be “vicious or violent” towards him, and holsters his weapon. The dog walks up to him, sniffs him for a few seconds, and takes off towards the residence in a “slow trot”. Deputy Brauer walks to the residence and makes contact with Iwicki, who is on her cell phone and screaming hysterically, and unintelligibly. Deputy Brauer yells at Iwicki to hang up the phone and tell him where the baby is. Iwicki yelled back that the baby was in the back and that’s all she would say. Deputy Brauer instructs Iwicki to lock up the dogs, as they were now both present in the living room. Iwicki ignored him, still on the phone and hysterical. Deputy Brauer again instructed Iwicki to “Hang up the God Damn phone and get the dogs outta here!” Iwicki hung up the phone at that time. Deputy Brauer went into another room, with hardwood flooring, and saw the baby laying on the floor, motionless, naked, and laying on his back. Upon closer inspection, Deputy Brauer realized the child was alive, and could hear the baby

gasping for breaths. He picked the baby up and brought him into a room with carpet flooring, and left the residence to retrieve his medical kit from his squad. At that time, EMT's were arriving on scene, as well as other Officers.

**First Interview w/Susan Iwicki:**

Deputy Craig Konopski interviewed Iwicki at the scene, while being checked out by the ambulance crew members. Iwicki stated that she had Daxton fully clothed in snow pants, a jacket and a hat. She had him in her arms and was walking with the dogs out the back door to let them into a fenced-in area in the backyard. She opened the gate to the fenced in area and stated that the female dog became aggressive. The female was jumping up on her and Susan was pushing the dog back down. The male then joined in and Susan stated she was confused about what happened next but stated that one of the dogs had jumped up on her and knocked her to the ground, and when she fell to the ground, she fell on her stomach area and lost Daxton on the ground. While they were on the ground, she said that the female dog began attacking Daxton in the arms and legs, while the male dog grabbed the tassel on top of his hat and pulled the hat right off of Daxton's head. Susan stated the female was behind her and must have been the one to push her down, as she was now standing on her back. Susan said she could not stand up, and the male dog kept biting at Daxton. She was swatting at the male dog and yelling at him to get away, and stated that she was screaming for help, hoping that a neighbor would come out of their residence to assist. She states she does not know how long this attack went on for, but the female dog finally got off her back and ran towards Daxton and joined in the attack. They were biting him in the head, face, arms and legs. Susan states that Daxton was screaming and crying. She got up to her knees, and then finally to her feet when she began to kick at the dogs with her boots. She was kicking the dogs in the ribs and head area while

screaming for someone to help her. She said the child was still screaming at that time. She kicked the female dog in the head and was able to get on the ground between the dogs and the child. She grabbed the child with both arms, and got back up on her feet. While retreating, one of the dogs, bit the sleeve of her jacket off and the back of her coat. She said that she then pulled her cell phone out of her coat pocket, and dialed 911 as she moved toward the back of the house. She was able to enter the residence using the sliding glass door. One of the dogs was able to force its way into the house before she could get the door secured. She laid Daxton on the floor, got a hold of the dogs collar, and dragged it into the kitchen area where she put up a gate. She said she was on the phone with dispatch, screaming for help and she ran around to the side of the house, and let the second dog in, also confining it in the kitchen. She said that she then went back to Dax who was no longer screaming or moving. She said that the next thing she remembers is when Deputy Brauer entered the residence. She stated that the whole incident happened so fast that she “didn’t have time to react.”

**Observations of the Scene:** At 12:58, Deputy Otterbacher arrived on scene. He describes the scene as follows: Walking into the residence, he sees Deputy Long had the dogs cornered inside the residence in a kitchen or dining room area. He walks into an entry way which had a refrigerator and some other items in the room. It was a small room. He observed a coffee cup size area of blood on the floor and proceeded into the living room portion of the residence where he found other areas of blood on the hardwood floor, and on the window of the sliding glass door. Going outside, there was a large area of blood near a gate and a fenced in area to the west and south of the residence. He noticed a 4’ x 10’ area of a large amount of blood near the fence near the gate on the outside

of the gate. The fallen gate, fell to the east, and to the outside of the fenced in area. There was some blood on the gate and another large portion of blood and clothes on the inside portion of this gated area. The items observed were a diaper, a stocking cap, a dog collar, a gray shoe, and what appeared to be an inside out pair of pants lying on the snow. The foot patterns indicated that of an adult, and there was indication of a struggle, and the person stepping in numerous areas to avoid the dogs.

Detective Banaszynski noted the scene as an enclosed fenced area with a four foot cyclone type fence in the backyard. The gate to the fenced in area was off its hinges and lying on the ground. He notes that inside of the fenced area were a child's hat, a pair of child's blue tennis shoes, a black piece of nylon material, a black glove, a set of keys, and a black dog toy (Kong). There was also blood on the snow surrounding the items. The exterior area of the fencing was a portion of blood soaked snow, approximately 3'x'3 in diameter with numerous shoe and boot prints.

**Observations of the Dogs on Scene:** Deputy Otterbacher reports that the dogs were contained by Deputy Long and himself with pepperspray to get them to retreat. They were confined in the dining room area. He states that the dogs appeared to be fairly young, and somewhat friendly, however they were very scared and had to be kept at bay. Deputy Otterbacher does note injuries on one of the dogs, one having a scuff mark on its snout, and an injury to the dog's leg which was a scrape or an abrasion.

The report by Deputy Long states that the dogs were able to get out of the kitchen, and entered into the living room. Deputy Long used O.C spray to stop the dogs from advancing, and also Sgt Otterbacher's O.C. spray. In all, he states he used 1 can of O.C. spray directed at the dogs. Long notes that the dogs, in his opinion, appear to be the breed of "Pit Bull Terriers", and also notes his opinion, that they are moderately aggressive, even with the

deployment of OC. The female appeared to be the more aggressive of the two, and was noticeably larger than the male. Deputy Long notices along the wall least visual from the doorway, there were cages stacked, and the cages contained rabbits. Deputy Long states in his report: "As I continued to observe these dogs, I saw them on several occasions jump at these cages. With both dogs working in tandem, I can only describe, what you the reader would see on TV as a pack of wolves attacked their prey." Deputy Long helps the humane society workers with containing the dogs into individual kennels using a snare device. He states that prior to leaving the residence, he noticed on the tack board, in plain view, postcards from the Lake Geneva Small Animal Clinic reminder notices of vaccinations due for dogs named Penny and Bosston.

**Second Interview w/Iwicki @ 1430:** Iwicki stated that she was watching Daxton while his father, Jeffrey, was working with her boyfriend, laying down carpet. This is a usual arrangement. She stated that she had babysat Daxton several times during the last couple of months. When asked about her dogs, she stated that the female's name was Penny and the male's name was Bosston, and that they were brother and sister. They were just under 3 years old. She stated that she and her boyfriend got them from a casual friend she could only identify as Brian. When asked what breed of dog they were, she stated that she did not know, and that Brian had a big male dog, and a small female dog that bred together. She said that the female was only around 35 lbs in weight, and had 7 puppies, and that she had problems with producing enough milk for the puppies, and they had to take possession of Bosston and Penny when they were 3 weeks old, instead of 8 weeks. She stated that the when the dogs were smaller, they fought over food a lot but that they corrected that problem. Iwicki stated that both dogs were fed together 1 cup of dog food in the morning and one cup of dog food in the evening. She advised that neither dog had any formal

obedience training, but that they were both trained to sit and stay and would not be let out of the dog crates until they did so. She advised that they were not allowed in every room of the house, and that they used baby gates and a piece of card board to keep the dogs contained in the rooms they were allowed to be in. She stated that neither dog showed any aggression toward other dogs that would come to the house, and that just when they were young, would they "tussle", working out their rank. She said when strangers came over, the dogs would bark and jump up on them to say hello. Iwicki stated that the dogs are kenneled at night and were kenneled most of the day today. She has had them out of their kennels when Daxton has been there in the past with no problems. She stated she was holding Daxton in her arms when she led both dogs out to the back yard fenced in area to pee. She stated both dogs went off and peed. She said when both dogs came back to her, one of the dogs began to pull on her pant leg of her jeans. She said that she began to slap the dog in the muzzle, telling it to stop. She said she was unsure if it was Bosston or Penny. She stated then both dogs began to bite her on her coat, tearing the pocket, causing her cell phone to fall to the ground. She said at that point, Daxton began to cry. She said the dogs then started jumping up on her, biting Daxton as she held and attempted to shield him from the dogs. Iwicki stated that Bosston jumped and grabbed the tassel of Daxton's hat, pulling it off his head. She said she was then knocked to the ground by both dogs. She did not recall how she fell on the ground, but did recall rolling around on the ground and both dogs were on top of her. She said that the dogs then began biting Daxton in the face area. She stated that she was on her knees and everything was happening so quickly. She stated that she just screamed and screamed for somebody to help her. She said she could see her cell phone on the ground, but couldn't get to it. She said that Daxton was lying in the snow, and the dogs were going for his face. She said she then tried kicking the dogs, and she said she

drove her finger into Penny's eye to get her to stop. She said that one of the dogs had Daxton's arm, so she removed his jacket so they couldn't bite his arm. She was still kneeling at this point, and thought she might be able to stand up. She said Daxton was on the ground, and the dogs wouldn't let her near him, and that they were walking around him. She stated that she retrieved her cell phone and dialed 911. She stated that the dispatcher wasn't listening to her about what was happening, so she had to call 911 a second time. She stated "We were disconnected and I was talking to the air." She said she saw Bosston go over and start to lick Daxton's face where they had bit him. She stated she knew the dogs weren't going to leave him alone, so she ran over, scooped up Daxton, and ran to the house, entering in through the glass doors. She said that Daxton was still breathing and awake. She said that Penny was able to sneak into the house while the door was barely open. She said she put Penny in the kitchen and put up the baby gate. She said at that point, she saw a Deputy pulling in the driveway and saw Bosston in the driveway. She said that she pointed out to the Deputy where she had laid Daxton on the floor. When Detectives asked about the gate that was off its hinges, Iwicki stated that because of the deep snow, the gate has been off its hinges, and the dogs were able to knock the gate over from its leaning position. She stated that for the last few days, Bosston had been throwing up, didn't have any interest in food, and was not drinking water. She said she consulted her sister, who is in her 2<sup>nd</sup> year of vet school at UW Madison, and was advised to put Bosston on a bland diet of rice, cottage cheese, and boiled chicken with no fat. She said that she did do that, and that Bosston seemed to be doing better, and was drinking water the night before. When asked about what type of playing she does with the dogs, she stated that both dogs love to play with their Kong toys, specifically fetch. She stated that they would retrieve and release when told to do so. Iwicki stated that both dogs were up to date on all their shots.

**Additional Info:** On 3/7, dispatch received a call from a “Dawn” who works for Elkhorn Vet. She wanted to report the weight of the dogs (without their heads, as they had already been removed for rabies testing). Bosston weighed 36.3 lbs and Penny weighed 42.8 lbs. Joshua Pronschinske met with Detectives on 3/8 to advise he was in the building next to Iwicki’s residence on the day of the attack, and was outside at the time of the attack, and that he had heard screaming. Pronschinske stated that he saw the news last night and saw that the attack happened at 12:46. He said at that time, he was working next door at the Lazy Cloud Resort. He punched out at 12:42 on the time clock, and that he usually goes out and starts his truck 5–10 minutes prior to leaving from work when it’s cold. He stated that he heard screaming for 10 minutes, give or take a minute or two. When the Detective asked him if he heard screaming, why didn’t he go over to where she was screaming? Pronschinske stated that he thought it was just kids having a snowball fight or something. He said that he always hears kids yelling and screaming and playing all around the area, and he wasn’t sure if there was a school that’s over there, but he didn’t think anything of it. He goes on to say “She never screamed for help. She never yelled or screamed anything that would make me like run, it’s right next door, I’d be over there in two seconds and you know..” Detective Banaszynski told him he didn’t understand if you hear someone screaming, how you don’t go over there and check it out. Pronschinske stated “I understand why you’re asking that but it’s not my fault. Next time I hear screaming from next door I’m gonna check it out, I fell bad that I didn’t.” The Detective then tells him the reason for the time delay from when he heard the screaming to when the 911 call was made was because Iwicki was fighting for her life and for the life of a baby.

Detective Robert Craig interviewed Dr Kelly Roy from the Geneva Lakes Animal Hospital on March 12<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Roy was the vet who attended to Bosston and Penny. Dr. Roy advised that she did not



remember the dogs, but what she could say about them, would be notations from their charts. She had noted "GO SLOW-Reactive" on Penny's chart, and that notation just meant that the dog was stand offish and would hide behind the owner. The charts do not indicate any aggressive behavior. According to the charts, the dogs were healthy with a good coat and weight. Penny was a little on the "overweight" side. Dr. Roy explained that with Pitbulls, or pitbull like mixes they like to see some definition of the ribs that sometimes people mistake for being underweight. Dr. Roy when on to state: "Breeds like Pitbulls, Shepards, and Rotweillers have a tendency to freeze when provoked or scared, which if the dog attacks, gives little warning. In other breeds, the dogs have a tendency to retreat first."

On 3/7, Deputy Newmann was listening to a recorded jail conversation between inmate Tonya Anderson and Morgan Rizzo at the Walworth County Jail. During the phone call, they discussed the dog attack. The conversation took place on 3/7 at 9:19am. By their conversation, it is apparent they both know the victim's father, whom they refer to as "Bogart". At the 2:18 mark, Rizzo stated "Like I said, it's all on the owners too." At the 4:05 mark, Rizzo stated "It's physical abuse, and it's mental abuse, and I think that's why the dog snapped, is for the mental abuse." On March 20<sup>th</sup>, Detective Craig followed up with Morgan Rizzo on his comments made during the conversation on the 7<sup>th</sup> of March with inmate Anderson. Rizzo said that he met "Bogart" through the DJ business that Borchardt had. Rizzo said that he has known him for years, and at times, has helped him moved equipment. He also said that he has given Borchardt "safe rides" home in the past. He stated that he found out about the death of Borchardt's son on Facebook. He stated that at first he thought that the death cause by the pitbulls was about Borchardt's Chihuahua, as he had always joked that he was going to feed the little dog to a pitbull. He said he thought something had happened to the Chihuahua. It was later on, reading different posts,

that he realized that it was Borchardt's son. Detective Craig explained to Rizzo that some people have said that he may know the dogs were physically abused or mentally abused. Rizzo stated that he did not know that, that he never even knew the owners or the dogs. He was unsure if he had ever met Iwicki, as the name didn't sound familiar to him. When asked if he talked to anyone or gave his opinion about what happened, he said that he didn't have an opinion, but he did talk to people at work. When asked what the people at work thought, he said they didn't have much to say. He said from what he heard, the dogs were "older dogs" and may have gone "senile". He also heard that one of the dogs was from an animal shelter, and had heard that one of the dogs could have been aggressive, and the other one followed.

**Interview w/Jeffrey Borchardt on 3/8:** Borchardt wants to know details of attack, as he has not heard up to this point what exactly happened. Detective Banaszynski informs Borchardt about the details of the attack, according to Iwicki. Borchardt stated that he was working with Iwicki's boyfriend, Steven Curly laying carpet on the day of the attack. He said that Curly has been his personal friend for 25 years, and that he helps Curly for extra cash. He lists his other occupation as a D.J., and that he has 11 others working under him. He states that he didn't even need to go to work with Curly that day, but chose to do so anyway. He said they were at a carpet store, when Curly received a phone call from Iwicki. He stated that Curly instantly got into his van and "took off like a rocket". Curly would not give Borchardt any details, only that something had happened, and that Daxton was involved. When they arrived at the residence, he learned that Curly's dogs had attacked his son. When asked how many times Iwicki has been in charge of Daxton's care, Borchardt stated "At least 20 times." When asked if he had ever seen any aggression displayed in the dogs when he had contact with them, he said that he had not, but had seen two

pitbulls owned by Curly previous to these two and they had gotten into a fight. Borchardt then described the fight with his hands and voice how intense the fight was. Borchardt stated that it is going to be his goal to get pitbulls banned from insurance companies and municipalities. He said that he and his wife are moving and “leaving everything behind”. He stated that he was considering going to work at the bar to a DJ gig tonight, to get his mind off his son. When asked if he had had any contact with Curly or Iwicki since the attack, Borchardt stated that he did not and decided that he never wanted to see either of them ever again. Borchardt was told by detectives that Iwicki did everything possible to save his son, based on her statements, and the condition of her clothing. They told Borchardt that Iwicki was also injured in the attack. The Detective suggested speaking with Iwicki and Curly, and that it might help them all “heal” through this ordeal. Borchardt stated he would think about it.

**Report of Humane Officer Deputy Richard Lagle:** Deputy Lagle states that he monitored the situation via portable radio in his office at the Sheriff’s Department. He reports that the dogs were described as two 65 lb pit-bull type dogs. He stated that he contacted Cindy Wroebel, who is the Humane Officer at the Lakeland Animal Shelter, and advised her of the situation. Due to the nature of the attack, Deputy Lagle and Ms. Wroebel came to the decision that the dogs must be euthanized. Ms. Wroebel responded to the scene to remove the dogs. The dogs were transported to Elkhorn Vet Clinic, and euthanized by Dr. Jeffrey Korosec. He is the one who prepared the dogs for rabies testing, by removing their heads. Deputy Lagle asked Dr. Korosec “How the dogs looked?” Dr. Korosec stated that both dogs looked healthy and were in “good” shape.

On March 7<sup>th</sup>, Deputy Lagle retrieved the specimens from the

Elkhorn Vet Clinic and drove them to the State Lab of Hygiene. The specimens were turned over to Dr. Jim Kazmierczak for testing. Deputy Lagle states in his report: "As the heads were removed from the box, it is my opinion that they were pure bred "pit-bull" dogs." The dogs heads were tested and repackaged. Neither of them had rabies. Deputy Lagle contacted the Lake Geneva Animal Hospital, Walworth Clinic, where the dogs received their last evaluation in September 2011. At that time, the female weighed 58 lbs, and the male weighed 49 lbs.

**Report by Captain Dana Nigbor:** Upon walking into the residence, Captain Nigbor immediately noticed Deputy Long standing in a doorway what was into a dining room area. She could hear two dogs. Deputy Long did have his weapon drawn and pointed in the area of the dogs. She recognized that pepper spray had been used recently, as people were coughing, as was she. She learned that Cindy, from the Humane Society was en route with some volunteers to remove the dogs. She examined the scene of the attack and then advised officers to process the scene. She then went back into the house to assist Sgt Otterbacher and Deputy Long with the dogs until the Humane Society arrived. 20-25 minutes later, Cindy from the Human Society arrived, and with the help of Detective Banaszynski throwing some hotdogs in their direction, the dogs were able to get snared and put into individual kennels. They were then placed in the back of the van. Once the dogs were removed from the home, Captain Nigbor walked around the residence. She noted the residence was clean, beds made, no drug paraphernalia laying out in plain view. She did note that in the kitchen, some garbage, including another diaper, had been ripped into and was laying on the floor. Also, a bag of dog food was wide open, which led her to believe that perhaps maybe the dogs had been eating some of the dog food also, but states that it just a guess on her part.

Captian Nigbor did speak to Iwicki at the hospital. Iwicki advised today was a normal day. The dogs are usually kenneled throughout the night. She said she had bundled Daxton up to go outside. She dressed in a winter coat and boots herself. She let the dogs out of the cages and all four then proceeded out of the house toward the gated area. Iwicki then indicated to her that at that point, the female started nipping at her and she was batting them away, and yelled at them to get down and stop it. She stated Daxton started crying and the next thing she knew, the dogs were jumping and knocked her to the ground and started to attack her and Daxton. She said that she was finally able to get Daxton in the house, but that all of his clothing had been ripped off by the dogs.

**Vet Reports on Bosston:** From the Geneva Lakes Animal Hospital, printed on 03/11/2013 at 11:20am. Bosston, listed as a Canine Boxer mix, male, neutered. Color, Brindle, and weight is listed at 58 lbs. Date deceased is listed as 3/7/13. Vaccinations current on Rabies thru 9/12/14, Vaccinations overdue on Distemper on 9/12/12, Lyme Disease on 9/12/12, Fecal Examination on 9/12/12, and Heartworm (occult) on 01/18/12. The report goes on to list Bosston's entire medical history, from 07/26/10 thru 06/27/12, which was the last time he was seen by a Veterinarian. There is also another page where it lists Bosston as a K-9 species, M, Boxer mix, Colors of Brindle/White with a dob of 04/21/10. No further information is listed on this page. There are also several pages of "charting" on Bosston, starting on 6/7/10 for a "New Puppy Exam", and ending 6/28/12 with a follow up on a leg issue.

**Vet Reports on Penny:** From the Geneva Lakes Animal Hospital, printed on 3/11/13 at 11:20am. Penny, listed as a Canine Pit Bull mix, female, spayed. Color, Brindle, and weight is listed at 49 lbs. Date deceased is listed as 3/7/13. Vaccinations were current on Rabies thru 9/12/14 and Fecal Examination thru 6/28/13. Vaccinations overdue on Distemper on 9/12/12, Heartworm (Occult)

9/12/12, and Lyme Disease 9/12/12. The report goes on to list Penny's medical history, from 9/13/11 thru 07/16/12, which was the last time she was seen by a Veterinarian. There is also another page where it lists Penny as a K-9 species, F, Boxer mix, Color of Dark Brindle with a dob of 04/21/10. No further information is listed on this page. There are also several pages of "charting" on Penny, starting on 6/7/10 for a "New Puppy Exam", and ending 6/28/12 with a Fecal Exam, and medication for treatment of worms. On the bottom of the last page of the charts, there is an "Alert" that says "Go Slow-Reactive". Penny's records also include forms from when she was spayed, one page is an authorization form. The owners did choose laser surgery and Pre-Anesthetic blood testing. There is also a Surgical Summary from her operation. Another form with her records appears to be blood work results. It was done at IDEXX Laboratories on 11/19/10, for a Female Canine Boxer named Penny, age 7 months. It also lists the doctor as Cynthia Farris. The weight says 0.0 lbs. Lastly, there is a report from Urgent Care Veterinary Services, from 11/27/10. Penny is listed as Canine species, Pit Bull, 7 months old. She was seen for her incision from her spay surgery, which had opened up and was bleeding. The vet that treated Penny was Dr. Jeff Korosec, who was the same doctor that ended up euthanizing both dogs after the attack.