



# News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Animal Control

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## **Two Dogs Attack Fayetteville Woman**

FAYETTEVILLE – Two pit bulls attacked a woman April 30 around 6:30 p.m. at 5005 Higgins St. in Fayetteville. Amanda Bellamy Meachern, 66, was transported to Cape Fear Valley Hospital after sustaining dog bites to her right arm and left leg. Meachern was released from the hospital Sunday evening.

Meachern told Animal Control officers she was in her back yard at a gathering when two pit bulls ran toward her after exiting her neighbor's front door at 5003 Higgins St. One dog lunged and bit Meachern first on the arm, she said. She blacked out from the pain and trauma, but remembers both dogs being on top of her.

Members of Meachern's family removed the dogs from atop her and called 911 after moving her to safety.

The two dogs, Ace and Princess, were impounded by Animal Control. A third dog was running at large, but was not involved in the attack. The three dogs' owner, Jeannette Ortiz, received a dangerous dog investigation notice and was cited for not having current rabies vaccinations for two of the three dogs, no pet privilege licenses for two dogs, and three counts of dogs running at large.

In addition, Animal Control cited Ortiz for two instances each of violating Section 3-81(e) of the county's Animal Control Ordinance, which sets the "penalty for a dog biting a human causing injury which requires professional medical or hospital treatment shall be \$500.00 for the first offense." Ortiz faces fines totaling \$2,200.

Animal Control Director Dr. John Lauby said today he would not issue a dangerous dog permit for the two dogs that attacked Meachern, and they will be euthanized once the rabies quarantine period of 10 days is complete. This is the third bite incident for Ace.

"This is a savage mauling and our thoughts and prayers are with the victim and her family," Lauby said.

North Carolina state law requires pets have a current rabies vaccination and Cumberland County requires all pets to have a pet license. Licenses can be purchased online at [www.licensepet.com/cumberlandcountync](http://www.licensepet.com/cumberlandcountync); in person or by mail at Animal Control, 4707 Corporation Dr., Fayetteville, N.C., 28306 or by calling 910-321-6852.

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