

## Owner closes chapter on dog shooting incident

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

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Close your eyes and envision a vicious dog attack on another dog. What do you see?

I see the gashing of teeth, torn flesh hanging, blood all over the dogs from the wounds inflicted on each other. There was none of that the day our dog supposedly attacked the neighbor's dog. In the police report when the "three buddies" were standing there watching the dogs wrestling they told the police officer they were "in fear of their lives." In fear of what?

There was no blood or torn flesh in all the time they were supposedly trying to get the dogs apart and while the neighbor went in to get his gun. If they were in "fear for their lives," why didn't they run to safety, get into the pickup or go into the house? The neighbor feared so much for his life that he got up close and personal to shoot our dog in the back of the head? So close that blood sprayed all over the neighbor.

If I were in fear for my life I wouldn't get that close in case that "vicious" pit bull should turn and try to grab my leg. My son made a mistake that night by going on Facebook and using the word "revenge" to one of his friends. He was so hurt, angry and devastated and he wasn't thinking. But our neighbors went to the police and said they were living in fear that my son would hurt their kids or their dog.

So for a while our privacy was invaded by the police driving the area more often than usual. My son would never harm a child or an animal. He was the one who opened the garage for a stray cat to get warm.

As far as I know, there was no ticket issued for discharging a firearm in town. When the officer that took the report was in Ampride one night when I was in there, the clerk asked why the neighbor didn't get a ticket and the officer replied, "he was protecting himself." So in other words, they have given him the impression whenever he thinks he is in "fear for his life" he has the right to shoot.

So if my son walks to his car in the alley to get his mp3 player and the neighbor thinks he is coming to do bodily harm and shoots him, are the cops going to look the other way again? Or maybe it's just the name and money that counts.

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Another citizen asked if he shot a rabid skunk in his yard, would he get a ticket and the chief of police told him “yes.”

If a skunk with rabies attacks another animal or human there will be bites, claw marks and blood, but you can't shoot him. But you can shoot a dog that leaves no bodily harm.

The police report failed to mention that there were no signs of a vicious attack, that the dog had no blood from wounds, just from our dog.

I don't think that the officer asked anyone else in the neighborhood if they thought our dog was vicious and I know there are a couple of officers on the force that know our dog wasn't vicious. I have lived here since 1970 and have been active in the community, so anyone who knows me should know that I would never endanger anyone or anything with harboring a vicious dog. I have grandchildren and an elderly mother that I would not put in harm's way.

I will let citizens of Holyoke decide for themselves if this was a vicious attack, or just ridding the world of another pit bull. I was so angry after reading the police report because of what was left out. My daughter sent me a reminder that there is a higher justice. It went this way. “If someone seems to be getting away with doing something wrong, maybe God is just giving them a chance to make it right. Be patient, God sees everything and has a very good memory.”

Patty Coyne

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