

DOG ATTACK

elisedavid4@googlemail.com This is basically what happened:

Location: 12th October 2015 approx. 11 o'clock down Merthyr Mawr sand dunes, Bridgend.

3 beige/cream lurches snapped and bite the horse's rear legs and tail. Rider called out to the dog owner to please get his dogs as they are biting the horse.

The Male dog owner didn't respond quickly and the dogs didn't come to call. Dogs continued to bite, snarl, growl and show clear aggression towards the horse.

Horse and rider were chased all the way round the 'horse shoes' (path which follows the ogmore river) down to the beach where the tide was right out, galloped through the deep sand to the sea, along the beach and went into the sea in attempt the dogs wouldn't swim to catch them. Unfortunately the dogs followed them into the water and wouldn't leave the horse alone. They continued to show clear aggression. Horse and rider stopped at one of the beach (Porthcawl end), but the dogs kept biting and attacking the horse. Horse fled back down the beach and luckily a man was walking his collie.

Horse and owner circled this man pleading for help, whilst the dogs were snapping at the horses legs. The man helped call the dogs away with his own dog, caught their attention and encouraged the lurches away with his own dog whilst running in the opposite direction from the horse (away from beach back to the dunes). The horse owner doesn't know who this person was, but would like to thank him and the runner for their help and support.

This incident has been reported to the BHS and the local Police (Police reference number 1500377650), but this irresponsible dog owner and dogs are still out there!

Apart from seeing the dog owner initially I didn't see him there after.

Once the dogs had gone out of vision, I was scared that they may come back?

If you know of anyone with 3 beige/cream lurches please contact the police so they can investigate. I could not live with myself if this happened again, I keep thinking what if a young child was out riding their pony down the beach and this happened? It was extremely lucky that I stayed on, although I did lose a stirrup when I was in the sea.

Just to think if I had come off and forgetting about any of my injuries, where would my horse have fled? How long would they have chased him and if they did corner/trap him what would they have done in a "wolf pack" situation?

The Horse is experienced with dogs, as I have 2 at home. At present the horse is recuperating at home with his injuries.

I am not personally on Facebook, but I have requested an associate to post it on my behalf.

Like I said on the phone I have text and messaged this to my riding club Mynydd on Monday, but unfortunately they haven't posted it or replied?

I am disappointed, as I believe this is important to be shared, especially to the local equine community, which Mynydd has a fair percentage of.

I don't think people truly understand what happened and I wish I had a helmet camera on, so the footage could be shared and then maybe the true impact (fright, terrified, scared) would be seen. Plus the video footage could be used to identify the dogs and owner more robustly.

I would really appreciate if you could share this with the local riding clubs?

If you require any further information, then please don't hesitate to contact me.

Many thanks

Elise