

Dog behavioural expert visits attack victims

Imperative that we raise awareness about things like this – Havers

By BEN HALL

A DOG behavioural expert has visited the victims of a recent canine attack.

Steven Havers visited Shirley, Grant and Ty Wardle to help train them and their dogs against further attacks while also shedding light on why the attack happened in the first place.

Grant, his sister Shirley and her son Ty, were walking their three dogs in Whitwick's Holly Hayes Wood, in June, when one of their dogs and Grant were bitten by a Staffordshire Bull Terrier without provocation.

Mr Havers explained that the unleashed dog was most likely trying to test for a reaction from Grant's Weimaraner Peadan, which was why it attacked from the rear.

Furthermore, the Staffy was waiting for a signal from its owner to stop what it was doing and be called back.

However, with the owner seemingly unconcerned and pre-occupied drinking his lager, the dog saw fit to carry on because it was in control of its



human instead of the other way around.

Mr Havers said: "There is no way it was a planned attack. The problem with dogs and their owners is divesting responsibility.

"In my opinion it should be mandatory for every dog to attend training classes.

"It is just like driving without insurance, it might not seem like it but it can be very dangerous."

The crucial training

attribute Mr Havers believes dog owners should have is the ability to stop their pet and get it to come back to them.

Within 20 minutes of his arrival, all three of the Wardles' dogs were sitting calmly and under control.

Shirley said of the experience: "I think it has definitely helped us out, it was really interesting as well."

The owners consequently enrolled in one of Mr Havers's weekly specialised training

courses, which take place in Markfield, in order to continue improving the relationship with, and behaviour of, their dogs.

Mr Havers added: "It is imperative that we raise awareness about things like this - help is at hand and there is no need to suffer this kind of behaviour."

For more information about the courses available, visit www.haversspecialiseddogtraining.co.uk.

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