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FEATURED

Dog attack victims sue Montgomery County ARC, others

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Consultants will be reviewing the operations of the Montgomery County Animal Resource Center, including how many animals are euthanized at the shelter. The agency has cancelled its cat control contract with Kettering and other local municipalities. TY GREENLEES / STAFF Photo: TY GREENLEES / STAFF Photo

Two neighbors who survived a dog attack last August in the Drexel area have filed a lawsuit against Montgomery County, its Animal Resource Center, its dog warden and others linked to the mauling.

In their complaint filed in the Montgomery County Common Pleas Court in March, Richard Schroepel and Dawn Kilbarger say more than a dozen calls were made to Montgomery County ARC regarding a neighbor whose dogs were often loose



But on Aug. 26, 2025, three of the neighbor's Cane Corsos charged at Schroepel while he was tending to his garden at his Lawncrest Avenue home.

"They're lucky to be alive. And they'd like this not to happen to the next person. That's what the hope is," said Craig Matthews, the attorney representing Schroepel and Kilbarger.

After he was bitten multiple times by the dogs, Schroepel's own 45-pound pitbull ran out into the yard and distracted the other dogs long enough for Schroepel to break away, Matthews said.

But then they immediately ran across the street to Kilbarger's property, attacking her before she could run back inside her house.

Kilbarger sustained "catastrophic and disfiguring" injuries to multiple parts of her body, including her face, nose, mouth, arms, hands, and right lower leg, according to the complaint.

"Her injuries were so severe that she was classified as a critical trauma patient, with hypotension and signs of significant blood loss requiring airway protection, suctioning of blood and clots, IV fluid resuscitation, trauma alert activation, and emergent transport to Miami Valley Hospital," the complaint states.

The complaint alleges the animal resource center and its leaders did not perform their duties required under Ohio's rules for dog wardens "despite reasonable cause to believe that a dog in her jurisdiction was a nuisance dog, dangerous dog, or vicious dog."

There are an estimated 140,000 dogs in Montgomery County. The county's shelter has room for a fraction of this, with shelter leaders saying they can ideally fit roughly 80 dogs at their 6790 Webster St. location.

"Our thoughts are with the victims and their families as they navigate this difficult time. Because this matter involves pending litigation, we are not able to comment further," said Montgomery County Administrator Michael Colbert.

In addition to Montgomery County's government and shelter, the lawsuit names the owner of the dogs — Desmond Payne — and his landlord in 2025 as the defendants.

Payne was convicted on misdemeanor charges of failing to confine his dogs in connection this incident and is currently an inmate at Montgomery County Jail, and the three dogs involved in the attack were euthanized, according to court records.

The landlord tied to the Lawncrest Avenue property did not return a call from the Dayton Daily News.

The plaintiffs are seeking compensation for medical expenses and other damages in excess of \$25,000, with the amount to be determined at trial.

Matthews said his clients will be forever changed by the attack. The goal of the civil action is "to get ARC to do their job."

“They hold themselves out as being the protector of the citizenry, and they’ve really dropped the ball here,” he said.

“Hopefully this lawsuit will motivate them to change their policies and procedures so that this doesn’t happen to the next person.”

Sydney Dawes