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Woman, 85, attacked by dogs

Neighbor's 2 Great Danes being held on rabies watch

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An 85-year-old Mar Vista woman was seriously injured Tuesday night when she was mauled by two of her next-door neighbor's Great Danes, authorities said.

Beatrice Powell had taken pain medication and was sleeping Wednesday night at her home in the 1800 block of Walgrove Avenue after being released from Daniel Freeman Marina Hospital, said her daughter, Beverly Stewart.

"She's 85, you know. It's rough. She's still traumatized," Stewart said of her mother, who was attacked by the dogs in an unfenced area between the neighbors' homes, animal regulation authorities said.

Powell had no trouble with the dogs before, Stewart said.

Doctors stitched Powell's head, ears and arms to close wounds inflicted by the dogs, which attacked her about 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, apparently without provocation, Los Angeles police officer Mike Partain said.

"She sustained numerous bites and puncture wounds, basically all over her body," he said.

The dogs — a 130-pound male Great Dane and a 75-pound female Labrador/Great Dane mix, are being quarantined at the West Los Angeles Animal Care and Control Center, where they are undergoing a 10-day rabies watch, said Peter Persic, spokesman for the Los Angeles Department of Animal

DOGS/C2

Dogs

FROM PAGE C1

2470
Regulation.

The dogs' owners have provided proof of rabies vaccinations and licensing, he said.

An investigation into the circumstances surrounding the attack and a subsequent "dangerous animal" hearing will determine the animals' fate, he said.

Investigators will determine if the dogs have caused problems before or have been trained to attack and will look into what led to the mauling, he said.

As a result of the hearing, the owners could give up the dogs to

the animal regulation department or the dogs could be returned to their owners if safety measures such as a fence are implemented and the owners promise the incident will not recur.

"If it is determined that the owners could not responsibly care for the animals and if it appeared that these animals continued to pose a threat to public safety, the animals could be ordered destroyed," Persic said.

City ordinances demand dogs be must be contained on the property where they reside, Persic said.