

GUILTY OR NOT?

Read about It 1

A These words appear in the article you are going to read. Look up the words you don't know in your Glossary and write their meanings in your notebook.

- | | | | | |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| belonged to | enemies | guard | owners | took out |
| crime | experts | in addition | prison | unfortunately |
| dangerous | failed | mean | punishment | |
| decision | found guilty | murder | responsible | |

B Read the sentences about a terrible crime. Who do you think is guilty – the dogs or their owner?

- Two big dangerous dogs attacked and killed a woman.
- The dogs belonged to her neighbor.
- The dog owner may now spend 15 years to life in prison for the crime of murder.

C Now read the article and see if you were right.

GUILTY OR NOT?

A Tragic Death

Diane Whipple had just returned from the supermarket. When she took out the keys to her apartment, two big dogs attacked and killed her. The dogs belonged to a neighbor, Marjorie Knoller. Ms. Knoller tried to stop her dogs but unfortunately she didn't succeed.



Fair or Unfair?

A California jury found her guilty of murder. She may now spend 15 years to life in prison. This is the first time that a person has been put in prison for something a pet did. But the jury's decision makes us think: Are owners responsible when their pets become dangerous?

jury / هيئة محلفين / محلفين

Some people say the decision to send Knoller to prison was unfair. They say that she did not mean to hurt her neighbor and is not guilty of murder. Knoller tried to pull the dogs off Whipple but failed and hurt herself too. The dogs were on a leash at the time. Other people think that this is a fair punishment for the crime. They say that the punishment is right because Knoller and her husband knew that their dogs were dangerous.

Dangerous Dogs

Why are some dogs dangerous? The answer is that some dogs are bred to kill. The type of dog that Knoller owned, Presa Canarios, was first bred to guard cows and sheep from attackers. Doberman Pinschers and Rottweilers were bred as guard dogs for their owners. Pit Bulls are very aggressive dogs that were bred as "pit fighters" – dogs that fight other dogs. In addition, some owners train their dogs to be aggressive. They teach their dogs to attack their enemies.

What Do Experts Say?

Experts say that there are three important rules for dog owners. First, people need to look before they leap – that means they must find out about the type of dog before getting one. Next, dog owners are responsible for training their pets. With good training, even Pit Bulls can make good pets. Finally, owners should keep their dogs on leashes and watch them carefully, especially around children.

leash / مقود / مقود
bred / تربت / تربت

DO'S and DON'TS around dogs

1. Don't touch a strange dog before you ask the owner.
2. If you feel afraid, don't move. Don't run or wave your arms.
3. If a dog attacks you, roll into a ball and don't move.

WHAT ABOUT YOU? ?

Should people be allowed to keep dangerous dogs as pets?