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<http://berlin.ctcitizens.com/story/dog-bite-victim-seeks-100000>

Dog bite victim seeks \$100,000

A lawsuit filed against the town and the Friends of Berlin Animal Control seeks a jury trial and damages of at least \$100,000 in the case of an adoption of a Siberian Husky that allegedly attacked a woman and bit off her ear.

Attorneys for the plaintiff, Carolyne Vatalaro of Nroton, Mass., filed the civil action in a Massachusetts Superior Court in Taunton, Mass. in March. Besides the town and FOBAC, other defendants include, Angels of the Snow Siberian Husky Rescue Inc., animal control Officer Janice Lund and Mary Pitts, an individual who had temporary possession of the animal.

According to allegations filed with the court, on March 11, 2006, the plaintiff was attacked by "Chewy" and suffered extensive injuries including having her ear severed from her head, lost wages and emotional distress. The incident occurred when she was transporting the dog for an adoption arranged with the help of FOBAC and Angels of the Snow. Vatalaro lawsuit states that Lund "intentionally understated the dog's vicious and dangerous disposition."

Furthermore, "none of the defendants muzzled the dog, place him in a crate or took any other precaution to prevent the dog from biting."

Town Manager Roger Kemp said that of the numerous adoptions of cats and dogs that take place through the town's animal control services that this is the only incident of this nature that he's aware of. "We've never had a lawsuit before" in regards to an adopted animal, he said.

This is a litigious society, he said, and there's a tendency to need to place blame.