

## **Pit Bull Owner To Fight Charge Stemming From Salisbury Township Mauling**

*By Precious Petty The Express-Times The Express-Times on February 25, 2013 at 6:12 PM, updated February 25, 2013 at 7:34 PM*

Oreo, a male cockapoo, suffered life-threatening injuries when he was attacked by a pit bull. A vet placed tubes in Oreo's throat to drain blood from his wounds.

The owner of a pit bull police shot to death after it attacked two people and another animal has pleaded not guilty to violating a Salisbury Township ordinance.

Police say Montreal Howard's male pit bull was running loose when it attacked Tammie Jesberger, her father, William Tittel, and her male cockapoo, Oreo, on Pearl Street.

Township officers shot the dog when it advanced on them. Another of Howard's dogs, a female pit bull, was present during the Feb. 4 attack but did not participate in it, police said.

District Judge Michael Pochron said Howard, a 37-year-old Allentown man who lives near Salisbury's border, faces a fine if he is convicted of violating the township ordinance governing animals. A summary trial is scheduled March 28, he said.

### **HOW TO HELP**

Donations can be made at Wells Fargo Bank, Mountainville Financial Center, 1901 S. Fourth St. Allentown, PA., 18103. Checks should be made payable to "Tammie Jesberger/Oreo." Oreo suffered life-threatening injuries in the attack, including a torn throat and a broken jaw, Jesberger's attorney Thomas Newell said. The cockapoo required emergency surgery and is slated to undergo a second operation today, Jesberger said.

Oreo's vet bills are edging toward \$4,000. Jesberger is hopeful the community will come to her aid by making donations to a Wells Fargo Bank account, Newell said. The attorney exchanged emails with Howard, who indicated he does not have renter's insurance and that his landlord's insurer had rejected a claim he filed for the attack.

Newell said Howard has not stepped up to help pay for Oreo's treatment. Howard could not be reached for comment today and court officials said he does not have a defense attorney for the case.