

# Police Cite Man For Dangerous Dog After Deadly Attack

*By Eric Flack*

(LOUISVILLE) -- For the first time, the Louisville Metro Police Department has brought criminal charges against a dog owner in connection with a pit bull attack. But the Humane Society and the victim's family say: the dog owner is getting off too easy. .

Sixty-year-old Huron Barbour was just months from his wedding day when he was mauled to death by two pit bulls on his way home from work last November.

"He had called me that evening, saying that he was going to stop at the store and then he'd be home, and then he never made it," said Huron's tearful fiancée in an interview with WAVE 3 News.

She asked that we not reveal her identity because she fears retribution, but says she wants the owner of the dogs, Adrian Ferguson, to be charged with manslaughter or murder.

"To me he took his life," she said. "If it wasn't for that dog, and he was the one that had the dog -- you know what I'm saying, he would still be here."

But after consulting local prosecutors, on Tuesday Louisville Metro Police decided only to issue a dangerous dog citation to Ferguson, a Class A misdemeanor.

Pam Rogers, Kentucky Legislative Coordinator for the Humane Society of the United States, says that's not enough.

"These people need to know that they need to take responsibility for dangerous dogs," Rogers said. "And if they don't do that, than they are going to face serious consequences."

- In San Francisco, the mother of a 12 year old boy who was mauled to death by the family pit bull was charged with felony child endangerment.
- In Virginia, the owner of a pit bull that killed an elderly woman was convicted of involuntary manslaughter and sentenced to three years in prison.
- Also in Virginia, the parents of 2-year-old Jonathan Martin were convicted of involuntary manslaughter after the family pit bull attacked and killed the little boy

The humane society says the only way to prevent more tragedies is to hold pet owners accountable for their pets.

"I don't see a difference between somebody who is a drunken driver and someone who knows they have a dangerous animal and does not properly control it and it ends with someone's death," Rogers said.

"I think they need to step up to the plate, and that's something they need to be charged for."

The Louisville Metro Police Homicide Division, which is investigating Barbour's death,

says the case is not closed and there is a possibility more charges could follow. The case could also be turned over to the prosecutor who could then decide to add additional charges.

But as it stands now, that misdemeanor dangerous dog citation carries a maximum of 12 months in prison and/or a \$500 fine.

Ferguson was due in court Friday morning.