

Akron Beacon Journal (OH)

October 12, 2003

MAN FACES TRIAL IN DOG ATTACK

HE'S ACCUSED OF SICcing PIT BULL ON ESTRANGED WIFE

Phil Trexler, Beacon Journal staff writer

A man and his dog are to go on trial this month, charged with a vicious attack by the 11-year-old pit bull mix on the man's estranged wife.

For Adam Cooper of Cleveland, a conviction could mean prison. For his dog named Bud, death awaits.

For Charlotte Cooper, the dog's attack in Hudson in August detached part of her scalp and left puncture wounds in her shoulder. She is healing with the help of 44 staples in her head. Plastic surgery remains a possibility.

Summit County prosecutors contend that Cooper sicced Bud on his wife in a domestic quarrel outside the Hilltop Motel on Ravenna Road in Hudson. A deaf man witnessed the dog's attack in August and signed to police that Cooper ordered it.

Cooper, 39, is being held in the Summit County Jail on charges of felonious assault, domestic violence and failing to restrain his dog.

Bud was taken to the county pound. However, the dog is temporarily being treated at a veterinary clinic for an infection.

Dog wardens are awaiting the conclusion of the court case before putting the dog down.

Cooper's trial is scheduled to begin Oct. 30 before Common Pleas Judge James Murphy. His lawyer, Joel Reed, could not be reached for comment.

Charlotte Cooper, 38, said Friday that she wants a divorce and prison time for the man she married on Oct. 13, 2000.

"Physically, I'm healing," she said. "Emotionally, I'm a wreck."

With the staples, a shaved head and thinning hair because of stress, she said she is self-conscious about being in public.

She has moved from the \$155-a-week motel room she and Cooper shared over the summer while both worked selling ice cream from a vending truck.

The couple met in Charlotte Cooper's hometown of Connellsville, Pa., five years ago and spent most of their time traveling in Florida, Louisiana and Alabama, she said. They both worked odd jobs, and sometimes found themselves living out of their car.

Their fights over money and the thought of spending another winter homeless prompted Charlotte Cooper to announce an end to their marriage, she said. The decision sparked their argument the morning of Aug. 10.

"I'm thinking winter's coming, we can't sell ice cream. He's not working, and our rent is due. I told him to 'Take Buddy, get your stuff and get out. I'm done living this way,' " she said. "Every winter I've been with him, he's had me homeless and living in a car."

After spending the night with a friend, Cooper and his dog knocked on his wife's motel room, wanting to get a pair of his \$150 shoes from the trunk of their car.

While the three stood near their car, Charlotte Cooper resisted opening the trunk. As they argued, Cooper was holding Bud -- a dog he has owned since he was a pup -- by the leash.

Suddenly, Cooper pushed his wife, and Bud attacked her, the woman told police.

"I don't know if he sicced the dog on me, but he let go of the leash," Charlotte Cooper said. "He pushed me, and the dog jumped on me, and they knocked me to the ground. Bud was gnawing on me at the top of my head, and a piece of my scalp tore off."

While the dog mauled the woman's head, neck and shoulder, Cooper got his things from the trunk, she said.

"I had to beg him to call 911," Charlotte Cooper said. "He finally did, but then he said he had to leave because he said if he was here when the cops came, they'd take Bud."

Police arrested Cooper and Bud a short time later in Cleveland.

Edwin Kornblum, 35, was repairing a lawn mower at the motel and witnessed the attack, police said. Using sign language, he told police he saw Cooper point and order the dog to attack. Charlotte Cooper said Bud is trained to attack with a simple point of his master's finger.

As a result of the attack, she said, Bud's life needs to end.

"That dog will do it again, not only to me but to anyone if given the chance," she said.

As for her husband, she wants a prison term.

"I want him to be miserable. I want a divorce and (him) out of my life," she said.

Illustration:PHOTO: Headshot of Bud

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NewsNet5.com

Man Orders Dog To Attack Wife

39-Year-Old To Serve Four Years In Prison

POSTED: 7:42 a.m. EST October 30, 2003

AKRON, Ohio -- A man accused of ordering his pit-bull mix on his estranged wife -- causing extensive injuries to her head, neck and shoulder -- has been sentenced to four years in prison by a judge in Akron.

Summit County Common Pleas Judge James Murphy also ordered the man's dog, Bud, to be put to death.

Under a plea bargain agreement, Adam Cooper of Cleveland pleaded guilty to one count each of felonious assault and misdemeanor domestic violence. That averted a trial scheduled for Wednesday.

The 39-year-old Cooper also was ordered to pay \$12,000 restitution because his injured wife, Charlotte, has no medical insurance.

The August attack occurred at a motel in Hudson, about 15 miles north of Akron, where the couple had been living.

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Daniel M. Horrigan - Summit County Clerk of Courts

-- Criminal Case Information --

-- 11/8/2009 --

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Criminal Case No	File Date	Type	Judge
CR-2003-08-2444	08/20/2003	--	JAMES E. MURPHY

Parties

-- Plaintiff --	-- Defendant --
ID	ID
STATE OF OHIO	ADAM B. COOPER 12 WINCHESTER CLEVELAND OH 44102

Last 5 or Less Dockets If Any

Docket Entries

Filing Date	By Atty	Docket Text	Document
04/10/2006	--	C.A. 23071: ANY PENDING MOTIONS ARE DENIED AS MOOT. APPEAL IS DISMISSED.	Document 1
03/01/2006	--	DOCKETING STATEMENT	Document 2
01/27/2006	PRO SE	NOTICE OF APPEAL.	Document 3
12/29/2005	--	ON 12/27/05, ORDER DENYING MOTION FOR JUDICIAL RELEASE. JEM	Document 4
12/06/2005	PRO SE	NOTICE OF APPEAL.	Document 5

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STATE OF OHIO)
)ss:
 COUNTY OF SUMMIT)

IN THE COURT OF APPEALS
 NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

STATE OF OHIO)
)
)

CLERK OF COURTS) C.A. No. 23071

Appellee) CR 2003-08-2444

v.)

ADAM COOPER)

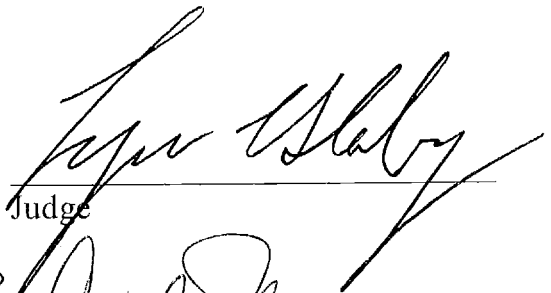
Appellant) JOURNAL ENTRY

Appellant has appealed from the trial court's order denying his motion for judicial release. This Court must raise jurisdictional issues involving final and appealable orders *sua sponte*. See, *In re Murray* (1990), 52 Ohio St. 3d 155, 159, fn. 2; and, *Whitaker-Merrell v. Geupel Co.* (1972), 29 Ohio St.2d 184, 186. This Court has previously held that the denial of a motion for judicial release is not a final and appealable order; therefore, this Court does not have jurisdiction over the appeal. See, *State v. Woods* (2001), 141 Ohio App.3d 549, 550.

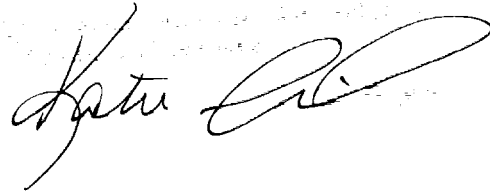

As a result of this order, any pending motions are denied as moot.

The appeal is dismissed. Costs taxed to appellant.

The clerk of courts is ordered to mail a notice of entry of this judgment to the parties and make a notation of the mailing in the docket, pursuant to App.R. 30, and to provide a certified copy of the order to the clerk of the trial court. The clerk of the trial court is ordered to provide a copy of this order to the judge who presided over the trial court action.



Judge

Judge

A copy of this journal entry is being mailed to the following:

Richard Kasay, Prosecuting Attorney, 53 University Ave., 6th Fl., Akron, OH 44308.

Adam Cooper, #454-283, Belmont Corr. Inst., P.O. Box 540, St. Clairsville, OH 43950.