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1. **San Jose Mercury News (CA)** - December 13, 1988 - 3A Front

PIT BULL KILLS 6-MONTH-OLD

A 6-month-old girl was fatally mauled by a pit bull in her family's apartment that a witness said was apparently after a cookie the baby was holding. "It was awful," said Helen Douglas, who lives next door to the girl's parents, Greg Vergara and Carrie Haverstock Vergara. The baby, Amber Haverstock, died Sunday at Akron Children's Hospital Medical Center. Police turned the family's dog over to the...

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6-month-old girl killed by pit bull

CANTON, Ohio (AP) — A 6-month-old girl was fatally mauled by a pit bull that a witness said was apparently after a cookie the baby was holding.

"It was awful," said Helen Douglas, who lives in the apartment next door to the girl's parents, Greg Vergara and Carrie Haverstock Vergara.

"I was there, I saw it," Douglas said Monday. "I saw it every time I closed my eyes last night."

The baby, Amber Haverstock, died Sunday night at Akron Children's Hospital Medical Center,

nearly five hours after the attack, authorities said.

Fire Department paramedic Tim O'Brien said the baby was badly mauled. She had been bitten in the face and neck.

"There were bites over her entire body, especially the upper torso," said O'Brien.

Douglas said she and her brother, Robert Nieb, were in the apartment next door when they heard the screams of the mother and child, who were alone in their apartment with the family dog.

"We ran next door and . . . my brother tried to get the baby and the dog," she said. At least three attempts to rescue the baby were unsuccessful, she said, and "finally, he (the dog) just let her go."

Police turned the dog, a 5-year-old male, over to the Stark County Animal Control Department.

"I'll tell you one thing, that dog's never leaving here alive," department director Phil Palumbo said when he learned the child had died.

Benefit games slated at PAL

Needy people will benefit from the proceeds of two basketball games, starting at 6 Wednesday night in the Police Athletic League of Greater Reading, 325 Walnut St.

A team of employees from Reading Eagle Company will play a team composed of local radio station personnel. After that



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1. **Akron Beacon Journal (OH)** - December 23, 1988 - C1 METRO

PIT-BULL OWNER FINED ON DRUG COUNT

Greg Vergara, the father of the 6-month-old baby who was killed Dec. 11 by the family's pit-bull dog, pleaded guilty ThursDAY, to a charge of drug abuse. Vergara, 25, of Woodland Avenue Northwest paid a \$40 fine in the Canton Municipal Court clerk's office without appearing in court on the misdemeanor charge, a clerk said. Canton police said they found several marijuana plants growing in the Vergara home after the dog killed Amber...

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1. **Akron Beacon Journal (OH)** - January 12, 1989 - A1 METRO

PIT BULL DOG IN CANTON TO BE KILLED CHARGES ARE FILED AGAINST PARENTS

Spike, the 60-pound pit bull dog that killed a 6-month-old Canton girl Dec. 11, will be destroyed, Canton Law Director W. Scott Gwin announced Wednesday. Gwin revealed the dog's fate at a late-morning press conference. He also said that criminal charges were filed against Greg and Carrie Vergara of Woodland Avenue Northwest, the parents of Amber Haverstock, who was mauled by Spike, the family's pet. The Vergaras were each charged Wednesday,...

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- Akron Beacon Journal (OH)** - January 20, 1989 - B1 METRO

PROTEST LINKS PIT BULL, STARK KILLER

In a bizarre coincidence, the scheduled deaths of a pit bull that killed a Canton girl and a Massillon man who killed a neighbor girl were linked Thursday, afternoon in a Canton protest. David `Doc' Shaffer, 34, of Plain Township was cited by Canton police during a protest that called for Donald Lee Maurer of Massillon to be executed instead of Spike, the pit bull who killed 6-month-old Amber Haverstock on Dec. 11. About the time Shaffer was protesting, the...

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1. **Akron Beacon Journal (OH)** - October 30, 1999 - B5 LIFE STYLE

RIGHTS ACTIVISTS SAY ANIMALS ARE PEOPLE, TOO, SAN FRANCISCO (WHERE ELSE?) CONSIDERS PROPOSAL TO MAKE OWNERS 'GUARDIANS'

Animals don't have legal rights. They do, however, have lobbyists. One of my most memorable newspaper experiences demonstrated just how strongly some people feel about animal rights. It happened in the tragic aftermath of the death of 6-month-old Amber Haverstock of Canton, who was mauled by her family's pit bull Spike on Dec. 11, 1988. I assigned a photographer to take Spike's picture, and we published a photo of the dog in a cage at the animal...

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