**Lynn Court overturns Marblehead dog ruling**

**By Jack Butterworth/For The Item**

MARBLEHEAD-Lynn District Court Clerk Magistrate Daniel Day has overturned the Selectmen’s Jan. 31 death sentence for a German Shepherd as long as the dog stays out of Marblehead.

Selectmen voted unanimously Jan. 28 to have Dr. Anthony Schepsis’ dog Jessie put down for attacking Carol Bouchat as she walked her pug on a local hillside near Naugus Avenue. The attack happened Jan. 8.

Schepsis’ lawyer Jeremy Cohen successfully argued that selectmen no longer had jurisdiction over Jessie or his owner when they served Dr. Schepsis on Jan. 27, held the hearing Jan. 28 and issued the order to put the dog down on Jan. 31.

“Prior to those dates Dr. Schepsis transferred ownership of the dog to a new owner in New York,” Cohen said Tuesday. “He notified the police chief Jan. 25 and gave the chief the new owner’s name and address.”

“This way everybody wins,” Cohen said. “Jessie can go be a dog and live with other dogs. Marblehead is safe and he complies with all the orders.”

Assistant Town Counsel Lisa Mead represented the town at the hearing and the person who was bitten, Carol Bouchat, testified as well.

Mead and Bouchat could not be reached for comment Tuesday.

“We don’t dispute any of Jessie’s record or her (Bouchat’s) testimony,” Attorney Cohen said. He noted that the town decided not to exercise its right to appeal the finding to a judge, with the understanding that if Jessie ever returns to Marblehead the order to put him down will be carried out. Cohen also provided the town with contact information on the dog’s new owners so his new community can be informed of his record in Marblehead.

In a prepared statement Dr. Schepsis said, “I have been a physician for 26 years n treating injuries and trying my best to make people well. Given my commitment to health and well-being, I am sickened that this incident occurred which caused injury to another human being. I wish Ms. Bouchat well in her recovery.”

“After this incident, I took all necessary measures to find the right home for Jesse. I found caring people who are familiar with Jesse and are responsible and experienced dog owners in a rural location. Jesse now lives on a large property surrounded by an electronic fence. Additionally, Jesse has begun professional training so that he might become better socialized among other dogs. Though I will miss him, I know this is best for him, and I hope that it will ease the concerns of the residents of Marblehead.”

**Court clerk to hear evidence on misfit Marblehead mutt**

**By Jack Butterworth**

For The Item

MARBLEHEAD - The owner of a German shepherd involved in a Jan. 8 biting incident has filed a court appeal of the Selectmen's order to have the dog put to death.

The appeal will be heard by a court clerk Monday at 9 a.m. in Lynn District Court. It will be reviewed by the clerk as a civil case. The clerk may uphold the selectmen's decision or reverse it, and the town or dog owner may appeal the clerk's ruling to a judge.

Selectmen voted unanimously to have Dr. Anthony Schepsis' dog Jessie put down for attacking Carol Bouchat as she walked her pug on a local hillside near Naugus Avenue. The sentence was to be carried out in 10 days but Schepsis' lawyer, Attorney Jeremy Cohen, told the board that Schepsis is in the process of moving and has moved the dog to a new home in upstate New York. Cohen also said the dog, which was involved in previous attacks on other dogs, will receive special training.

Board members gave him 24 hours to produce written confirmation of the dog's location and warned him that Schepsis could be subject to a fine for not carrying out their order.

# Selectmen sentence dog to death

**By Kaitlin Melanson/Reporter staff**

[**GateHouse News Service**](http://www.wickedlocal.com/marblehead)

Posted Jan 30, 2008 @ 09:42 PM

Marblehead —

Saying they had the safety of town residents in mind, the Board of Selectmen voted Monday to euthanize one local dog while putting another on probation.

The dog that the board voted to put down is Jessie, a German shepherd owned by Anthony Schepsis.

Carole Bouchat reported she had been walking her dog at around 7 p.m. Jan. 8, when she says Jessie knocked her to the ground, causing significant damage to her leg and landing her at Salem Hospital.

According to Bouchat’s statement, while she was walking and talking to a friend on her cell phone, she heard a noise and saw a dog that was “clearly focused on [her].”

“It rose to its full height and made several advancing steps before charging downhill in my direction,” Bouchat’s statement said. “It leapt from the embankment, into the driveway and then the street where I stood. The animal went for my right calf, biting, tearing and crushing with its teeth before pulling me to the ground.”

Bouchat said that the friend she had been talking to on the phone called 911 and Bouchat was taken to Salem Hospital.

“I am not out of the woods from this assault,” Bouchat said. “According to my plastic surgeon, the wounds will take at least a year to heal before we can discuss surgery. I have relived the attack over and over again in both my waking and sleeping hours.”

Bouchat added, “I am an animal lover, and it is with heavy heart that I come to you.”

According to police records, Jessie had been involved in four attacks prior to the Jan. 8 incident, in each case reportedly biting other dogs.

After hearing the story, the selectmen unanimously decided that the dog should be euthanized in 10 days, an order that may be hard to carry out, given that Schepsis has taken the dog out of state.

In apparent defiance of an order from Police Chief Robert Picariello, Schepsis has moved Jessie to somewhere in New York and plans to move himself soon, according to his lawyer, Jeremy Cohen.

Selectmen will be warning New York authorities about the dog’s presence in their state, and Cohen promised to provide a specific location for the dog.

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