



Article ID: 193985

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State: NJ

County: Bergen County, NJ

Header: \$400,000 RECOVERY Dog Bite – Plaintiff in early 30’s bit by then boyfriend’s Rottweiler in face and neck – Plastic surgery – Good result despite some noticeable facial scarring – Emotional injury – Fear of Dogs – Psychotherapy

Body:

The plaintiff’s motion for summary judgment on liability had been granted under the strict liability Dog Bite Statute.

The plaintiff, who was 32-years-old at the time of the incident, and 34-years-old at the time of the recovery, maintained that as she was at the home of the defendant, her then-boyfriend, the defendant’s 135 lb. Mastiff Rottweiler jumped up and bit her on the face and neck. The plaintiff underwent plastic surgery and contended that despite a good result, she has some residual scarring under the eye, cheek, neck, and lip. The plaintiff, who had been considered attractive both before and after the incident, contended that she has become very self-conscious of the scarring. The plaintiff also maintained that she suffered an emotional reaction and fear of dogs, and that she continues to undergo psychotherapy. The plaintiff’s psychiatrist maintained that the plaintiff will permanently suffer the effects of the reaction to some degree. The defendant had \$1,000,000 in coverage. The case settled prior to trial for \$400,000.

Reference:

Plaintiff’s plastic surgery expert: Damian Havriliak, MD from Suffern, NY. Plaintiff’s psychiatric expert: Grigory S. Rasin, MD from Union, NJ.

Powers vs. Ditchfield. Docket No. BER-L-2085-13; Judge Lisa Perez Friscia, 10-03-14.

Attorney for plaintiff: Howard P. Lesnik, Esq.