

Man let dog attack, police say

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Yomiuri Shimbun

A man who allegedly allowed his German shepherd to attack a woman and her dog last summer has been arrested because he ignored police requests to voluntarily appear for questioning, police said Thursday.

Police said Sotojiro Ino, 48, of Hachioji, Tokyo, was walking his dog on the evening of July 27 at a park near his Kitanodai home.

The dog attacked a 49-year-old university employee, also from Hachioji, as she walked her dog through the park, police said.

The 40-kilogram dog injured the woman's knee and bit her dog as Ino

simply watched, police said. The woman required two weeks of medical treatment for injuries related to the attack, they said.

Police said they arrested Ino, the self-described owner of a business consultancy firm, on suspicion of bodily injury through negligent conduct because he failed to muzzle his dog and did not try to stop it from attacking.

Ino has refuted the charges, according to police.

Eight other assault cases involving a large German shepherd were recently reported to police in Hachioji.

All of the victims were reportedly women walking their own dogs.

Police are investigating whether Ino was involved in these incidents.

On Aug. 6, a 52-year-old housewife was attacked by a German shepherd on a Hachioji street as she walked her dog, police said. She reportedly suffered neck injuries.

In addition, seven women ranging in age from 16 to 78 were attacked by the same type of dog between July and September as they walked their dogs, police said.

One of the victims said the man whose dog attacked her left without apologizing.

"I was afraid. Now, even a picture of a German shepherd brings back the fear," she said.