# Armed police respond to multiple dog attacks amid rising concerns in Hartlepool



Armed police responded swiftly to a chaotic scene in Hartlepool on June 1, when three German Shepherds attacked multiple people on Sheriff Street. The aggressive dogs prompted a substantial emergency response, leading to a police cordon in the area, as local residents were advised to stay indoors and secure their doors. Reports on the incident highlight rising concerns over dangerous dog behaviour in the community, reflecting a broader issue faced in many regions regarding pet ownership and public safety.

The severity of the situation is underscored by a previous incident just weeks earlier, when armed police shot and killed an "out of control" American XL pitbull after it seriously injured a man during his arrest on Thornton Street. This particular event sparked significant public interest and led to Cleveland Police voluntarily referring the case to the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC). Following an assessment, the IOPC confirmed that the police acted within reasonable parameters, deciding that no further investigation was warranted.

The problem of dog attacks is not new to Hartlepool. Just days before the recent incident, on May 20, a Cleveland Police officer sustained injuries while intervening in another dog attack on Harrow Street. In that case, an unaccompanied dog attacked a pet being walked by its owner, leading officers to deploy a Taser to regain control. This incident further highlights the escalating nature of dog-related violence in the area, raising questions about owner responsibility and effective regulatory measures.

Beyond these specific incidents, the sheer number of dog attacks in Hartlepool serves to underline growing public anxiety surrounding dangerous breeds and pet control. In one particularly tragic occurrence on June 30, a dog had to be euthanised after being injured during a spate of aggravated burglaries. Such incidents not only mark a distressing development for community safety but also contribute to a larger conversation about how to best manage and regulate pet ownership, especially concerning breeds perceived as more aggressive.

In light of these occurrences, the local community, along with law enforcement agencies, faces increasing pressure to implement more stringent measures to ensure both human and animal safety. The rising trend of dog attacks prompts a reevaluation of current policies and practices, with stakeholders advocating for better education for pet owners and enhanced laws to mitigate risks associated with dangerous breeds.

As Hartlepool continues grappling with these issues, the focus now shifts to finding effective solutions that address the root causes of these aggressive behaviours, hoping to restore a sense of safety within the community. Given the recent spate of attacks and the significant response from authorities, it is clear that a collaborative effort will be essential for fostering a safer environment for residents and their pets alike.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2062837/dog-attack-hartlepool-armed-police), [[2]](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-tees-65672731), [[4]](https://www.hartlepoolmail.co.uk/news/crime/iopc-says-investigation-not-required-after-cleveland-police-armed-officers-destroyed-american-pitbull-dog-in-hartlepool-4157333)
* Paragraph 2 – [[2]](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-tees-65672731), [[3]](https://www.itv.com/news/tyne-tees/2023-05-26/cleveland-police-referred-to-iopc-after-dog-destroyed-in-hartlepool)
* Paragraph 3 – [[5]](https://www.hartlepoolmail.co.uk/news/crime/taser-is-used-as-cleveland-police-officer-is-injured-after-hartlepool-dog-attack-4637633)
* Paragraph 4 – [[6]](https://www.hartlepoolmail.co.uk/news/crime/police-confirm-dog-has-died-after-it-was-badly-injured-during-hartlepool-aggravated-burglary-4203678)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2062837/dog-attack-hartlepool-armed-police> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-tees-65672731> - On 23 May 2023, armed police in Hartlepool destroyed a 'dangerously out of control' American XL pitbull after it attacked a man during his arrest. The incident occurred on Thornton Street, where the dog bit the 32-year-old man, leading to serious injuries. Despite attempts to subdue the animal, it ran towards the town centre in an agitated state and was subsequently destroyed by the Armed Response Unit. The man was taken to the University Hospital of North Tees with serious injuries to his limbs and deep bite marks. Cleveland Police voluntarily referred the incident to the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC).
3. <https://www.itv.com/news/tyne-tees/2023-05-26/cleveland-police-referred-to-iopc-after-dog-destroyed-in-hartlepool> - Following the incident on 23 May 2023, Cleveland Police referred the case to the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC). The 32-year-old man, arrested on suspicion of assault and criminal damage, sustained serious injuries from the dog attack. Despite efforts to free him, the dog ran into the street, prompting armed officers to destroy it due to the risk it posed to the public. The IOPC assessed the situation and determined that no investigation was required, returning the matter to the force for appropriate action.
4. <https://www.hartlepoolmail.co.uk/news/crime/iopc-says-investigation-not-required-after-cleveland-police-armed-officers-destroyed-american-pitbull-dog-in-hartlepool-4157333> - The Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) confirmed that no investigation was necessary after Cleveland Police armed officers destroyed an American pitbull dog in Hartlepool. The incident occurred on 23 May 2023, when the dog attacked a man during his arrest on Thornton Street. Despite attempts to subdue the animal, it posed a serious risk to the public and was destroyed. The IOPC assessed the situation and determined that the police's actions were reasonable and proportionate, returning the matter to the force for further action.
5. <https://www.hartlepoolmail.co.uk/news/crime/taser-is-used-as-cleveland-police-officer-is-injured-after-hartlepool-dog-attack-4637633> - In a separate incident on 20 May 2024, a Cleveland Police officer was injured while intervening in a dog attack on Harrow Street, Hartlepool. Officers were on an unrelated matter when an unaccompanied dog attacked another dog being walked by its owner. A Taser was deployed as the officer attempted to control the aggressive dog, resulting in a minor injury to the officer. The animal was seized and removed to an appropriate facility while investigations continued. A 27-year-old woman was arrested on suspicion of having a dog dangerously out of control in a public area.
6. <https://www.hartlepoolmail.co.uk/news/crime/police-confirm-dog-has-died-after-it-was-badly-injured-during-hartlepool-aggravated-burglary-4203678> - On 30 June 2023, police confirmed that a dog had to be euthanised after being badly injured during a series of aggravated burglaries in Hartlepool. The incidents occurred on 27 June 2023, targeting homes on Leamington Parade, Miers Avenue, Amberton Road, and Hazel Grove. A pet dog belonging to the occupants of a house on Leamington Parade was badly injured during the burglary and had to be put down. Two men, aged 26 and 34, were arrested in connection with the burglaries and released on police bail while investigations continued.