


JESUS RODRIGUEZ
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY


**OFFICE OF
THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO**
**BONNIE M. DUMANIS
DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

San Diego
330 West Broadway
San Diego, CA 92101
(619) 531-4040

[San Diego County District Attorney](#)

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Contact: [Steve Walker](#) (619) 531-3890
[Tanya Sierra](#) (619) 531-3315

District Attorney Files Charges Against Owners of Pit Bulls That Mauled Neighbor

Dogs Previously escaped and attacked a man and a puppy

San Diego County District Attorney [Bonnie M. Dumanis](#) announced today that charges have been filed against the owners of two pit bulls that viciously mauled a neighbor while she was in her back yard.

Alba Cornelio, 39, and Carla Cornelio, 19 who are mother and daughter, were arraigned today on multiple charges including death or serious bodily injury from mischievous animal -- a felony; failure to provide public protection from dogs; owning or having custody of a dangerous animal/dog causing injury; and failure to restrain a dog, all three misdemeanors.

The women face three years and eight months in prison if convicted of all of the charges. Both pleaded not guilty and their bail was set at \$350,000 for each defendant.

“This is a tragic event that should never have happened,” DA Bonnie Dumanis said. “Dog owners must take responsibility for their animals and prevent them from hurting the public.”

The women were arrested Wednesday by Animal Control officers with the County Animal Services Department. On June 18, the dogs attacked 75-year-old Emako Mendoza while she was in her back yard. The dogs entered her yard through a hole in the fence. The dogs previously escaped and attacked a man and his puppy.

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