



- [Home](#)
- [Weather](#)
- [News](#)
- [Follow-Up File](#)
- [I Team](#)
- [Consumer Watch](#)
- [Health Watch](#)
- [Education](#)
- [Travel](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [Article Archive](#)
- [XML RSS Feed](#)
- [CBSNews.com](#)
- [Extra Features](#)
- [Featured Links](#)
- [What's on WOWK-TV](#)
- [Slideshows](#)
- [Postcards](#)
- [View Events](#)
- [Submit an Event](#)
- [WOWK-TV Downloads](#)
- [Special Shows](#)
- [WV Tonight Live](#)
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- [13 News Poll](#)

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[Home](#) > [News](#) > [Cabell County](#) > [Huntington](#)

[Increase Font Size](#) - [Decrease Font Size](#)

## Grand Jury to Get Dog Attack Case

Posted 5/20/2005 06:00 PM

The Cabell County prosecutor said he wasn't sure when the jurors would decide if charges would be filed in the death of Arianna Fleeman.

Story by Deanne Stein [Email](#) | [Bio](#)

As they charted new territory in Cabell County, Huntington police and Prosecutor Chris Chiles outlined where the case involving a girl killed by a pit bull will go next.

In a news conference Friday, Chiles said he will take the death of 2-year-old Arianna Fleeman to a grand jury to see if charges would be filed.

Arianna died Tuesday night after she was attacked by the dog, named Brutus, inside a home in Huntington's Guyandotte neighborhood. The dog's owner, Donald Brewer, was not home at the time, and the dog was destroyed Thursday.

Reading from a prepared statement, Chiles acknowledged the emotional nature of the case -- the first time a child was killed by a dog in Cabell County.

"However, the police, my office and the grand jury cannot permit emotions to dictate what happens from here," he said. "Those decisions will be made from an honest and thorough investigation and determination by an independent body, the grand jury, as to what the appropriate resolution under the law should be."

Chiles and Police Capt. Steven Hall would not give many specifics on the case, saying the investigation was ongoing. They did say, though, that a blood sample was taken from Brutus for analysis.

They also said drug activity did not appear to be a factor in the case.

It was unclear when the grand jury might take up the case. A grand jury just disbanded, Chiles said, and he hadn't decided Friday whether to call it back into service or wait until the next grand jury is chosen in September.

As police continued to investigate, debate continued on whether Huntington should ban pit bulls. One Huntington business on Friday invited people to come in a vote on whether the dogs should be



Arianna Fleeman

June 10, 2005

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- Robert C. Byrd
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allowed in the city limits.

One idea to control dangerous dogs has been on the books since 1981.

[State law](#) requires anyone who owns a dog that is generally considered to be vicious to buy an extra 10-dollar license for the animal.

But West Virginia Media has learned that officials in the Cabell County Assessor's Office have never issued a special license for dangerous dogs.

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How to Prevent Dog Bites

<http://tinyurl.com/88shb>

Prevent the Bite Web Site

<http://www.preventthebite.com/resources.htm>

Safe Kids Safe Dogs Project

<http://www.safekidssafedogs.com/>

National Data on Fatal Dog Bites

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/duip/dogbreeds.pdf>

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