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Pit bull owner backs ban after mauling

By NADIA MOHARIB, CALGARY SUN

Watching in horror as her beloved dog was fatally mauled by her two pit bulls has convinced a heartbroken woman to support a ban on the controversial dogs. "Right up until that fight, I stuck up for them, always gave them the benefit of the doubt and defended them because they were my children," a distraught Betty Petrov said last night, one day after her 12-year-old German shepherd, Sarge, was killed by her two pit bulls in the living room of an Edmonton Tr. home.

"By raising them and giving them love, hugs and kisses every day and no violence, we figured we could overcome the stereotype and, in the end, it didn't happen.

"Unfortunately, I probably would support a ban."

During a family gathering, for no apparent reason, one of her two pit bulls -- who lived with Sarge since they were puppies -- lunged at the shepherd with the other joining in.

Petrov's mother hit the attackers with a board as Petrov struggled to pry the attackers off the shepherd she raised since a pup.

The 12-year-old dog, after being grabbed by the throat by one dog while attacked by the other, did not survive.

Petrov later made the devastating decision to euthanize her two other dogs.

"It's the right decision," the teary woman said. "Even if we were to keep the other dogs, I could never love them in the same way, all I'm going to see is the death of my baby.

"It's not their fault, but the bottom line is it's just bred into them."

Ontario recently introduced legislation which could see it become the first Canadian province to ban pit bulls by the end of the year.

Pit bulls have been banned in Windsor and Kitchener-Waterloo, Ont., and Winnipeg.

There are similar bans in place in France, Britain and Germany.