

## **Gazette Article:**

Puppy snatched by mountain lion – May 2008 / Nicole Vandeputte

A Colorado Springs man has a warning tonight, after a mountain lion took away a gift to his family. He watched it all happen from just a few feet away. From their porch, is a picturesque view in Northwest Colorado Springs. Scott Reich lives just off West Woodman with his wife, and their 4 children. Their home is set in the foothills. Bikes often pass by, so does wildlife. Reich says, "We see deer. We see bear once in awhile. We have a local fox that's always running around here, but never thought about a mountain lion."

Reich never thought a mountain lion would take away a gift for his wife. Emmi was a 5 month old King Cavalier Cocker Spaniel. They call her a lap dog. Emmi just loved laying on anyone that would hold her.

They loved Emmi, which makes the events of a night 2 weeks ago even harder to push aside. Reich says, "I just keep playing through that whole night through my head, and just seeing this mountain lion come out."

It was about 8:30 at night, and dark. Reich was walking little Emmi in the front yard. He had a flashlight. He says, "She walked just off the lawn here. The mountain lion was here, and just grabbed her." "I could have just reached out and touched him, because the dog was within a foot of me. She was right by me.", says Reich.

The mountain lion didn't touch Reich. In it's mouth was all it wanted, little Emmi. Within seconds, Emmi and the mountain lion disappeared. Reich says, "I started yelling and instinctively ran after it, but it was so fast."

Reich and his wife Theresa couldn't save Emmi but, they could warn others. They posted signs, and passed out fliers to bikers and neighbors. They're also making some changes. Reich says, "We cleared out all the scrub brush so there's not a place for a mountain lion to hide."

That was a tip they got from the Division of Wildlife. They're heeding other device from that office. They have plans to also install motion lights. They also want to build a fully enclosed kennel for their other dog. For them though, nothing they do know can change what they wish they had known then. Reich says, "It gets less and less, but I don't think you ever get rid of that uneasiness that comes when you go outside."

Reich found out later that a biker said he spotted a mountain lion just down the street earlier on the day of the attack. The Division of Wildlife hasn't had any other reports in that area since that incident. They do say dogs are easy prey for mountain lions. They hope pet owners will take some of the measures the Reich's have taken.