

'Danger dogs' seized in raids

CRICKLEWOOD: Police use warrant

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POLICE hunting dangerous dogs have seized four pit bull-type animals in raids across the borough.

Officers carried out the operations after gaining intelligence from neighbours including an upset mother who claimed a dangerous dog had attacked her two-year-old son.

It is believed a dog grabbed her helpless child by locking his teeth into his clothes.

Luckily, the boy escaped without any injuries.

Officers executed a search warrant at 8am on Friday at an address in Comber Close, Cricklewood, in connection with the incident last month, and found two pit bull-type animals.

Police confirmed that one was a section one dangerous dog and a 38-year-old man was arrested under the

Dangerous Dogs Act.

Meanwhile, a 34-year-old man was arrested following a bust on the St Raphael's Estate, in Pitfield Way, Tokyngton, an hour later.

Worried residents had complained about the owner. Dollis Hill, Preston, Stonebridge, Harlesden, and Willesden Green Safer Neighbourhoods Teams, along with the police dog section and RSPCA carried out the operations.

Earlier this year, PC Simon Underwood, who heads Brent Action For Responsible K9s (BARK), told the Observer that aggressive dogs are the new weapons on the street.

They are seen as the legal alternative to guns or knives and are a symbol of power among gangs.

Dog fighting and animal cruelty also increased last year, BARK warned.

The RSPCA said the number of dog attacks has quadrupled in the past two

years and the number of youths going to hospital with dog bites has nearly doubled.

Last year, the charity received 183 complaints in London about dog fighting.

Animal charities such as The Mayhew Animal Home, in Kensal Green, have also seen a massive rise in dogs being found with sickening fight injuries.

Sergeant Michelle Ruane, from Stonebridge Safer Neighbourhoods Team, said: "I would like to reassure the public that we take reports of dangerous dogs very seriously.

"We will not tolerate animals being mistreated or being used for criminal purposes.

"We will continue to make Brent safer for residents and visitors."

● **If you know of dangerous dogs or the mistreatment of dogs call your Safer Neighbourhoods Team on 0300 123 1212 or Crime-stoppers anonymously.**



■ **ACTION:** Police seize the dogs

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