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**Chadrad Communications, Inc.**  
226 Bordeaux St - Chadron, NE 69337  
308-432-5545 fax 308-432-5601  
E-mail: [kcsr@chadrad.com](mailto:kcsr@chadrad.com)

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**(S.D.)-Neighbors Dislike Man's Choice Of Pet In Lead**

By: Chris Fankhauser Posted at: 05/10/2013 07:58 AM

LEAD, S.D. (AP) - Residents of a neighborhood in the western South Dakota city of Lead say they're fed up with a man's pet wolves, which they say have kept them in fear for years.

The owner of the canines says they aren't wolves but registered Alaskan husky dogs, and Mark Valdez doesn't understand why anyone would be afraid of them.

Residents say one of Valdez's animals attacked and nearly killed a small dog over the weekend. Valdez says he's not sure which animal started the incident.

Valdez says the Sunday incident was the first time any of his animals have escaped, but neighbors dispute that.

Police Chief John Waiman says that local and state authorities are investigating whether the animals violate any city or state laws.

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