



SEAN FEARED FOR LIFE

YOU'RE A SNARL

By **STEPHEN MAGUIRE** and **GERALDINE COMISKEY**

YOU'RE A Star favourite Sean Ban Breathnach told last night how he feared for his life after he was attacked by two devil dogs between rehearsals for the hit charity TV show.

Sean, who was still recovering from the terrifying ordeal yesterday, was set upon by the giant Rottweillers as he went for a walk near his hotel.

Only for his quick-thinking, the RTE star fears he came within inches of being savagely mauled by the Rottweillers - which are used as guard dogs by murdered Veronica Guerin's widower Graham Turley.

Terrified Sean, 58, suffers from Type II diabetes and must take regular exercise to keep the disease under control.

The Irish-speaking favourite was taking in his daily five-mile walk as recommended by docs when the maniac mutts seemed to come out of nowhere.

Sean, from Galway, turned his back to the vicious dogs and kept still as they pinned him against a wall.

He eventually got away but was physically sick just yards up the road from where the terrifying incident happened.

Shaken Sean told the Irish Sunday Mirror: "I have to say I was pretty scared. In fact I was terrified. It just happened out of the blue."

"I was out walking because I have to because I have diabetes. I'm out up to two hours a day."

"I was minding my own business when all of a sudden these two dogs came at me from out of the blue."

"They started to go mad and were going for me. I was afraid of my life of them."

"Don't ask me how I remembered but I recalled a friend of mine, who has a fear of dogs, telling me I should always stay still if attacked."

"I turned my back and remained as still as I could and tried to blend in with the wall but I was still terrified."

"They pawed me but eventually left me alone and ran off but I walked up the road and I got sick because I had got that much of a fright."

Sean is staying in a hotel near Dublin airport during the filming of the RTE show, which finishes next Sunday, and was out walking in lanes nearby when the dogs appeared.

Owner Graham yesterday apologised to Sean but denied his dogs would have attacked the RTE star on the road.

GRAHAM, who lives near the airport, said he keeps the animals, named Tiofaidh Ar La and Madra, as guard dogs after he was threatened in the past - even since his famous wife's death.

Builder Graham said: "I keep them as guard dogs, along with the cameras and alarms, because of who I am - because I'm Veronica's husband. I have had people threatening me in the past."

"The only way my dogs would have wandered out on the road would be if someone enticed them."

"In fairness they might have got out but not that I know of."

"There's a football club up the road and they had a few parties in the last week."

"Young lads were going by the house because they had to walk down this road to get taxis. I found lots of bottles thrown over the wall."

"Sometimes the lads tease the dogs and the dog run out. The dogs just want to play."

"I apologise to Sean Ban if he was frightened."

"But he's a brave man to be walking that road at night. It has no lights on it, it's very narrow and it's the main road to Malahide."

"It's dangerous enough in the daytime as you can see."

A source on the show said: "This was no publicity stunt - Sean's a very lucky man."

"Only for his quick-thinking we could have had a very real tragedy on our hands."

"We're not talking about a small stray dog here. We're talking about two big Rottweillers who could rip a man apart."

"Thankfully Sean did the right thing and wasn't hurt but he got the fright of his life."

(I'm sorry to 'snarl' - the RTÉ)



Apology.. Graham Turley keeps dogs, above, for safety

I'm sorry if the dogs scared him - Turley