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Baby bitten by dog improves

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A Harrison County newborn is doing better after being bitten on the head by his family's dog.

Ethan Vest, 11 days old, improved from critical to serious condition at the University of Kentucky Hospital, medical officials said today.

Harrison County Sheriff Bruce Hampton said he got "the best news I heard all day," when he called to check on Ethan this morning.

"The baby had opened his eyes and can move his fingers and toes," he said. "So that's wonderful."

The Harrison County Sheriff's Office was called to the home of Josh and Alicia Vest on Ky. 353, also known as Russell Cave Road, at 4:53 p.m. Wednesday.

Police found Ethan -- the first child for Josh, 26, and Alicia, 29 -- with a bleeding wound on his head. Ethan was taken to Harrison Memorial Hospital, where a helicopter took him to University of Kentucky Hospital.

Hampton said doctors operated immediately.

After the attack, animal control employees confiscated the dog -- a husky-German shepherd mix -- but it escaped from a cage in the back of a truck.

Hampton said animal control employees, deputy sheriffs and road workers were still searching for the dog today. He said the dog did not appear to be dangerous however, just jealous.

"The dog was used to getting all of the attention," Hampton said. "The family has had it for four years."

No charges have been filed against the couple, but police are still investigating, Hampton said.

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