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Newborn bitten by dog improves

CONDITION UPGRADED TO SERIOUS; DOG STILL AT LARGE

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

Ethan Vest, 12 days old today, was moved from critical to serious condition at the University of Kentucky Hospital, medical officials said yesterday.

Harrison County Sheriff Bruce Hampton said he got "the best news I heard all day," when he called to check on Ethan yesterday 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 Cynthiana home of Josh and Alicia Vest on Wednesday afternoon.

Police found Ethan -- the first child for Josh, 26, and Alicia, 29 -- with a bleeding head wound. Ethan was taken to Harrison Memorial Hospital, then flown to University of Kentucky Hospital.

After the attack, animal control employees took the 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 yesterday.

Hampton, who had met the couple and the dog before the attack, said the dog did not appear to be dangerous.

"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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