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Pit Bull Attacks, Kills 4-Year-Old Girl

Last Edited: Monday, 05 Nov 2007, 8:22 PM CST Created: Monday, 05 Nov 2007, 8:22 PM CST By The Associated Press

PHOENIX -- Authorities say a 4-year-old girl who was attacked by a pit bull mix in north Phoenix has died from her injuries.

Coverage: MyFoxPhoenix

Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio says the victim and her sister were playing in the yard Monday afternoon.

The dog, a family pet, bit the 4-year-old in the arm. A baby sitter went outside and the sheriff says the dog grabbed the girl by the throat. The baby sitter tried, but was unable to break the dog's grip on the child.

The baby sitter went back in the house and called the sheriff's office, Arpaio said. Deputies arrived on the scene and found the dog next to the girl.

When deputies tried to get to the girl, the dog became aggressive.

"The dog was very aggressive and deputies then shot the dog," Arpaio said

The sheriff described the attack as "very vicious."

The girl was flown to St. Joseph's Hospital in Phoenix where she was pronounced dead, Arpaio said.

The girl's sister was not injured, Arpaio said.

No charges are pending as the investigation continues, Arpaio said.

The dog attack occurred near Happy Valley Road and 7th Avenue.

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A 4 year-old girl has died after being attacked by a pit bull in the Phoenix area. (MyFoxPhoenix)

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