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Boy attacked by pit bulls is in good condition

BY MARIANN MARTIN
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 • JANUARY 28, 2009

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The woman who used a steel cane to beat two pit bulls off an 8-year-old boy Monday said she is glad she was able to help.

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"The dogs were on him, and he was down," Mary Ella McIntosh said, on Tuesday afternoon. "I'm glad we were coming down the street and saw it, or who knows what would have happened?"

Javion Mayo was in good condition Tuesday at Jackson-Madison County General Hospital. His mother, Aquanett Mayo, declined to comment.

Police said Mayo had deep gouge wounds on his arms, bites on his neck and head and scratches on his face.

The dogs' owner, Juan Jarrett, 34, of Dancy Street, was given a citation because the dogs were not secured properly according to the requirements of city ordinances, police said.

But Jarrett said Tuesday evening that his dogs were behind a fence in his back yard and were not vicious animals.

Jarrett said he was not at home when the incident happened, but a neighbor told him the boys were in the yard kicking the fence to tease the dogs and knocked the fence down. The neighbor could not be reached for comment.

"I've never had a problem with my dogs before," Jarrett said.

According to McIntosh, she and several family members were driving along Dancy Street on Monday afternoon when she saw three boys walking down the street ahead of them.

She saw the dogs run into the street and grab Javion Mayo's arms, McIntosh said.

"At first I thought they were playing with him, but then they pulled him to the ground," she said.

Mayo got up once and tried to get away, McIntosh said, but the dogs pulled him to the ground again and jumped on top of him.

McIntosh said they quickly drove up beside the boy. One of her family members jumped out and started yelling at the dogs.

"That is when I grabbed for whatever I could find; I got my uncle's steel cane and started swinging at the dogs," McIntosh said. "One of them (the dogs) came at me, and I started yelling (to Mayo), 'Get up, baby. Get up.'"



One of the pit bulls that attacked a boy on Monday sits in a cage on Tuesday at the Madison County Rabies Control center. (KATIE MORGAN /The Jackson Sun)

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McIntosh said Mayo had bites and blood on his head, neck and face. They picked him up, put him in the car and took him to his house, she said.

His mother then took him to the hospital, McIntosh said.

"It was terrible, watching the dogs on top of him," McIntosh said.

When police attempted to contain one of the dogs, it tried to attack an officer, according to the police report. The officer shot the dog three times, killing him.

The second dog is being held by Rabies Control, according to Steve Bell, the Health Department's regional environmental services director.

Bell said they would follow normal procedures and hold the dog for 10 days. If Jarrett signs the dog over to Rabies Control, it would likely be put down after 10 days, Bell said.

"This dog attacked a child without provocation, and it does not need to be released," Bell said.

Jarrett said he would try to get his dog back because it is not vicious. He has owned the dog that was shot for a year, he said. The other one is a female that he has owned four years.

If Jarrett refuses to sign the dog over, Bell said they will try to have the dog taken away from him.

"We will do everything in order not to return the dog to the owner," Bell said.

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- Mariann Martin, (731) 425-9782

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toolgirl_420 wrote:

Wow, that dog is clearly NOT a pitbull or even mix. That is obviously a lab mix that is likely part chow. Clearly the writer of this article should NOT be doing any articles regarding dogs because she does not have any knowledge of breeds. It's truly sad that pit bulls are getting blamed for what a lab mix has done. It only goes to show how ignorant people are about the pit bull breed. They are wonderful dogs and they get blamed for things even when they didn't participate. Shame on you Mariann for such blatant ignorance. Journalism is about gathering FACTS and reporting it honestly, not lying about things such as this to grab headlines and get sympathy.

2/2/2009 6:44:10 PM

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doggi wrote:

JACKSON SUN: PLEASE direct us to the correction of this story, because it is false, and you have had plenty of time to make a correction. If you will not do this, then your publication is totally irresponsible and disreputable. Is this a 'news' article or not??

2/2/2009 4:32:11 PM

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Balamuthia wrote:

Replying to WTNBright:

This area is full of pit bull owners who are delusional, they will argue til the cows come home that pit bulls have been given a bad name. This Jarrett character is a perfect example. But wake up and smell the blood, they are dangerous animals. They say "any dog can bite", and "any dog can become vicious," which is true, but pit bulls are exceptionally strong and can kill easier than many other dogs. This is a useless breed that should be eradicated.

If you think the dog pictured here is a pit bull- you're the one that's delusional.

The fact of the matter is, this paper used the phrase "pit bull" to rile people up and to sell advertising and papers. It's shoddy journalism at it's worst.

2/2/2009 2:26:28 PM

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dreameyce wrote:

The pictured dog, is not in any way, shape, or form a "Pit Bull". Breed stereo-types aside, this is not an issue of a "Pit Bull" having bit a child, but rather a Labrador Retriever mix having bitten a child. While I understand that "Pit Bull" in an article gets attention, this is a great example of poor reporting. Shame on you for not getting the facts strait.

A retraction statement would be greatly appreciated by myself, and other responsible Pit Bull owners, with beloved family companions who happen to be "Pit Bull" dogs. As an active volunteer in Pit Bull rescue, the misinformed stereo-type presented in this article causes problems for sweet, wonderful dogs, based only on the breed they were born. This, is canine racism. In my 10+ years experience training dogs, working in vet clinics, and shelters, I've met no 'Pit Bull' dogs I wouldn't trust with my 4 year old daughter.

Pit Bulls by nature are sweet dogs, bred to be family companions, and all-around working farm dogs. Historically, they were called "Nanny dogs", for their deep caring, and watchful nature towards children. The poor reputation that 'Pit Bull' breeds have, is simply canine racism. For every one 'Pit Bull' who has ever bit, there's thousands of 'Pit Bull' dogs who have never, and will never bite. Many of whom live as beloved family pets, or working service animals (Drug and bomb detection, working for the handicapped, therapy dogs, etc). Pit Bulls are simply dogs, and are no more "dangerous" than any other dogs in the world. Please in the future Jackson Sun, choose to be a credible source of news, and publish facts. Yourselves, and the topics you report on will benefit from accuracy.

2/2/2009 2:18:10 PM

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Balamuthia wrote:

Give me a break. No way does that dog look anything like a pitbull!

Shame on you for perpetuating the horrible junk stories about "vicious pit bulls" just to sell papers.

So does this now mean that any dog with a single drop of pitbull blood is considered one? If so, I know a few Chihuahua's that would qualify!

2/2/2009 1:57:56 PM

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