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## **Pit Bull Mauls 3-Year-Old's Face**

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Two young sisters were attacked by one of their family's three dogs in their Bronx home Friday, police said. Both were taken to Montefiore Medical Center with bite wounds to the head.

Officers said Makailah Barnet, 3, was so viciously bitten on the face that her lips were nearly severed. She was listed in serious condition at the hospital, where she was undergoing surgery Friday night.

Her sister, Isinay Barnet, 4, was less seriously injured, with bites to the head. She was treated at the hospital and released.

Police were called to the family's two-story house at 58 W. 184th St. in the University Heights section after receiving several 911 calls shortly after 2 p.m.

A family friend, Corey Bellamy, 26, said three dogs were in the apartment at the time of the attack - a boxer, a German shepherd puppy and a pit bull that the family adopted several days ago.

Bellamy, who said he witnessed the incident, said the girls were playing on the floor with the puppy when the boxer "just snapped" and first bit Isinay and then jumped on Makailah.

"My baby just got in the middle of it," sobbed the girls' mother, Shannon Smith, who came home after the incident. "My baby's face is so disfigured."

Bellamy said two older sisters, Neshia Smith, 18, and Gina Smith, 17, tried to **pull the boxer off** of Makailah.

"They just made it worse," he said. "You're not supposed to antagonize the dogs."

The mother described Makailah as an active 3-year-old. "She was very playful," she said. "She loved the dogs." Of the boxer, she said: "The dog is always really passive."

Police said they did not know how many dogs were involved in the attack.

Shannon Smith complained about the police handling of the situation. "They killed the dogs in my living room," she told reporters. "They made the situation worse than what it was. I feel they shouldn't have done that."

Police said all three dogs were tranquilized with dart guns - not killed - and taken to the Animal Care and Control Center on 110th Street in Manhattan