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Child recovering after dog attack

Eric O Connor

Thursday, October 20, 2005

A 9-year-old boy is recovering from what police have called vicious dog bi

The victim was delivering newspapers in the City of Tonawanda about 1:30 Saturday when he was attacked by two large, unleashed dogs — a mastiff and a labrador mix.

The boy needed 25 stitches from three punctures, one of which went into muscle in the back of his leg, the report said.

A family member who asked not to be identified due to possible legal action said the victim was still in a lot of pain, but had returned to school Wednesday. The wound is bandaged, and the victim is on pain medicine and antibiotic, a family member said.

"We're pretty upset about it," the family member said.

The report said the dogs were euthanized at the Brighton-Eggert Animal Center following the incident. The dog's owner, 38-year-old Michael Bucholz of Delaware Street, was issued multiple summonses by Dog Control Officer Irl Murphy.

Police are unsure how the dogs were able to run loose in the city. Detective Timothy Toth said it's probably a good thing the victim was wearing roller blades as he delivered the newspapers because he was able to escape quickly than if he was on foot.

The dogs also bit a 41-year-old victim doing work in his driveway after the boy. Those bites were less severe, the report said.

"The officers were forced with the decision whether they would have to deal with the dogs on site," Toth said. "Luckily, the daughter of the owner arrived and corralled the dogs."

The report initially said the dogs were pit bulls, but was later amended to include the proper breed of the dogs.

Contact Eric O'Connor at (716) 693-1000, Ext. 115.



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