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German Shepherds Attack, Injure Second-Grader

8-Year-Old Recovering From Surprise Encounter

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CHICAGO -- An 8-year-old Indiana boy is recovering after two German shepherds attacked him on Christmas Eve.

NBC5's [Natalie Martinez](#) said that the dogs don't look more threatening than any other, but on Saturday afternoon they attacked Jacob Boss just two blocks away from his Hobart, Ind., home.

Martinez said the dogs jumped on him and knocked him to the ground.

"They ended up dragging boy up towards the residence," said Hobart police Lt. Leo Finnerty.

Fortunately for the boy, Martinez said, John Salazar was next door visiting relatives and ran to the boy's rescue.

"He was scared. I had never seen a terrified face like that," Salazar said.

The Lake Station man drove his truck up onto the lawn to scare the dogs away.

"I was honking the horn. I opened the door halfway and rolled the window down, and the dog was just looking at me, still tearing up on the little boy," he told Martinez.

"I got a bottle of detergent, threw it on one of them, (and) hit him in the head," he continued.

The dogs retreated to the back of the house.

The owners said they just moved to the neighborhood a couple of months ago and never saw the dogs behave that way.

They showed Martinez a hole in a back yard dog pen where they believe the shepherds made their escape.

Salazar, who owns two German shepherds of his own, said the dogs on Saturday were not playful.

"They weren't playing. They tore off all his clothes just about," he said.

Fortunately, the boy was wearing thick winter clothing, which helped keep his injuries from being more severe.

Many wonder what would have happened had it not been for Salazar's intervention.

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"He is definitely a hero," Finnerty said.

Salazar said that he would do the same thing if he found himself in that situation again.

His family told NBC5 that he's "a good guy."

The victim is no stranger to German shepherds, Martinez said. His family has dogs of their own.

The attacking dogs are being quarantined at the owners' home because a veterinarian gave them the OK and that their shots were up to date.

Police have not pressed charges, but the family could face ordinance violations which, Martinez said, could add up to big bucks.

They say they feel horrible about what happened, and they're happy that Jacob is feeling better.

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