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## DOG BITES

# Owner turns in dog after attacks

**Animal will be monitored for rabies**

By Kenneth Gailliard  
The Sun News

A Garden City Beach woman surrendered her 10-month-old malamute dog to authorities Wednesday, two days after it bit three people and forced them to receive treatment for rabies.

The dog is in quarantine at the Myrtle Beach Humane Society, Lt. Doug Furlong of the Myrtle Beach Police Department said.

All three victims, including a man who said his first treatment included 10 shots, sought medical attention soon after they were bitten.

Philip Errichiello of New Jersey said he is scheduled to receive five more shots over the next 21 days.

The bites occurred Monday afternoon at Barc Parc on the former Myrtle Beach Air Force Base, a popular spot where people take their dogs to socialize with other dogs.

The biting incident was the first reported at the city's dog park, city spokesman Mark Kruea said.

Police had asked for the public's help to find the dog, which was thought to be a wolf hybrid, and its owner, who left the park before police could be called Monday.

The dog's owner contacted police Wednesday and turned her dog over to S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control officials and Horry County police, Furlong said.

The woman has not been charged in the incident and could not be reached for comment.

Veterinarian records indicate the dog's shots were current, Furlong said.

DHEC officials said the dog will be monitored for 10 days to determine if it has rabies.

Until then, the rabies vaccination series for those bitten will continue, said Steve Baxley, DHEC regional environmental health supervisor.

If the dog does not have rabies, the shots would be stopped, Baxley said.

The incident occurred about 2:30 p.m. Monday, when the malamute, which had been playing with other dogs, bit Errichiello, who was at the park with his yellow Labrador retriever, Kodi.

"Everything was fine," he said. "Then after about 10 minutes they got in a commotion. This dog must have felt threatened because he came behind me and bit me on the calf."

While he was talking to the dog's owner about the bite, the dog bit another person then got loose from its owner and bit someone else, he said.

Errichiello said he then suggested the woman leave with her malamute, and she did.

He followed the owner from the park and tried to get the number of her license plate, but said it appeared to be covered from his view.

Police issued a statement asking for the public's help using witness' descriptions of the woman, her vehicle and her dog.

After the dog's owner contacted police, authorities confirmed the animal was not a wolf or wolf hybrid, Furlong said.

Wolf hybrids are not allowed at Barc Park, Kruea said. Errichiello said he has traveled and visited several dog parks this year. "You always are a little leery at a dog park."

He said owners should know if their dogs are vicious or can't get along with other dogs and people.

"This is a one in a million thing," he said.

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