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## **Girl dies after being mauled by family pet**

Copenhagen - An eight-year-old girl was mauled to death by a large sheepdog while playing at a friend's house at the weekend, Danish police said on Monday.

The girl was playing with her friend on Sunday when the two passed the friend's family dog, a Briard or large, long-coated sheepdog, which was on a leash outside the house.

"It's not quite clear yet what happened. The deceased girl was trying to greet or pat the dog when it bit her in the throat," police spokesperson Finn Joergensen in Skive, in western Denmark, told reporters.

"The parents of the friend called an ambulance but the girl died on the way to hospital," he said.

According to media reports, the girl had earlier been playing with the dog without incident.

The animal was put down immediately after the accident.

Joergensen said that according to the owner, the dog had shown no previous signs of aggression.

Briards are not known to be an aggressive breed.

According to Joergensen, prosecutors are considering whether to press charges against the owners.

Under Danish law, dog owners are responsible for making sure their dogs do not cause harm or damage. - Sapa-AFP

*Published on the Web by IOL on 2005-05-02 12:19:02*

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