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Family dog attacks 6-day-old baby girl in Hull: Infant in stable condition; DSS says no evidence of abuse

By JOHN ZAREMBA
 The Patriot Ledger

HULL - A week-old baby girl is in stable condition after being mauled by the family dog, authorities said.

The Labrador-bloodhound mix attacked the newborn about 4:30 a.m. yesterday at the family's house on Nantasket Avenue.

The state Department of Social Services is investigating, but spokeswoman Denise Monteiro said there is no evidence of neglect or abuse.

"It's the couple's first child. They're in their 20s. They have no history with us," Monteiro said. "At first glance, it just looked like the dog got to the infant and attacked her."

Monteiro would not say where the baby was in the home when the dog attacked her.

The baby was taken to South Shore Hospital, then transferred to Children's Hospital in Boston.

Monteiro said she could not describe the baby's injuries.

"Obviously, it's enough to put the child in critical condition," she said. This morning, Monteiro said the infant had been upgraded to stable condition.

Monteiro said it is up to local authorities to decide what to do with the dog. Ranking officers authorized to speak to reporters could not be reached, and Hull animal control officer Megan Hanrahan declined to comment.

Monteiro said the case should be a reminder to new parents that even friendly dogs can turn jealous when newborns are brought into the home.

"Our advice is to slowly introduce the family pet, and always stay very guarded," she said. "Even if you have the friendliest dog and the lovingest dog, it's just bizarre how it can turn."

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