

Neighbourly gesture ends in bloody attack  
By PAUL TURENNE, STAFF REPORTER

A two-year-old Winnipeg girl spent nearly four hours in the hospital yesterday afternoon after being bitten in the face by a neighbour's dog. Weston resident Sharon Zaber found a husky-shepherd cross belonging to a neighbour she knew in her Logan Avenue yard yesterday afternoon, brought her into the house and called the owner to come pick it up.

But before she knew it, Zaber saw the dog bite her adopted daughter Alisa in the face.

"Alisa was coming into the kitchen and the dog lunged for her," said Zaber. "She went right for her face.

"I never thought I'd see a dog attack a little girl. I was so scared."

Zaber grabbed her daughter and a friend grabbed the dog and locked her in a bedroom, she said.

"(Alisa) was just hysterical," said Zaber, who spent the next four hours at Children's Hospital watching her little girl take stitches to her cheek and upper lip, as well as under her eye.

SKITTISH

"Thank God it wasn't the eye. It was so close," she said.

Zaber knows the dog's owner, and said Alisa had even petted the dog before.

"We've known that dog since we lived in the area and it's never attacked before," she said.

The dog, whom Zaber thinks may have been beaten by a previous owner, was probably skittish and scared at being in a new house with new people, she said.

Staff from the city's animal control department took the dog to the pound yesterday.

"(The owner) wants to destroy the dog because she said 'What if she goes after another child?'" said Zaber. "She's more worried about Alisa than she is about the dog. She said she'd help me in any way she can."

Doctors told Zaber Alisa would suffer no major scarring from her bites, but she said she would stay home from work for a time to look after the girl.

Alisa was a little scared of the family dog, a little papillon named Twister, when she got home from the hospital yesterday, but other than that she doesn't seem to be too shaken up, said Zaber.