

Long Beach Press Telegram

Alaskan malamute kills 7-year-old girl

Colorado doctor says dog-bite fatalities are rare.

By Katy Human

The Denver Post

Sunday, May 08, 2005 - A 7-year-old Colorado girl mauled Saturday by a new family pet died later that day, police said.

Donald Page, the Fruita, Colo., family's landlord for the last year, cried Sunday as he described the attack. "She was such a loving child," he said, rummaging around for a card the girl made him on Friday. "It says here, 'Happy Friends Day to Don. I love you. By Kate-Lynn.' "

Page was indoors Saturday evening when a girl he identified as Kate-Lynn Logel and her mother, Shellamina Logel, were in the back with the family's two new dogs.

A family in DeBeque gave the Logels two Alaskan malamutes about three weeks ago. The dogs had played with children before, he said, and were good dogs.

"Shelly went on in to go to the bathroom, and when she went back to the back door, she saw Ice, the male dog, with blood on his face. She panicked and thought the dog got hurt, and she called me," said Page, who rents two rooms in his three-bedroom home to the Logel family.

When the two stepped into the backyard, they saw Kate-Lynn on the ground.

"The dog had bit her on ... both sides of the neck," Page said. "She bled to death. ... There just was no blood left in her."

Kate-Lynn died of her wounds at St. Mary's Hospital in nearby Grand Junction on Saturday evening.

Fruita police would not confirm the names of the victim or her family, nor discuss the case in detail, saying it is still under investigation.

Officials with St. Mary's Hospital, citing federal privacy regulations, declined to release information.

An autopsy was expected to be conducted Sunday, but Fruit police said they would not release details until later this week.

Kate-Lynn attended Fruita's Shelledy Elementary School, Page said.

Both Ice and his female companion, another malamute named Timber, were euthanized Saturday night, he said.

It's "extraordinarily rare" for dog attacks to be fatal, said Jason Haukoos, attending physician in Denver Health Medical Center's emergency room.

In seven years as a doctor, he said he's seen thousands of dog-bite victims. "You'll see pretty bad things, kids pretty mangled with puncture wounds or lacerations," he said. "But in my career, I have never seen a fatality."