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Wednesday, May 18, 2005

New Haven girl is scarred by one bite from a husky

By Jim Day, The Guardian

Days after the mauling, Glenda Perry is still overcome by her daughter's unsettling appearance.

One vicious bite by a "good-size" dog has left eight-year-old Bailie's face badly scarred, an eye bruised and her mouth askew.

Glenda Perry of New Haven is cut deeply by the altered look of her daughter. Her pretty girl with long, blond hair now peers out of blue eyes from a damaged face that required close to 80 stitches, including about 20 inside her mouth.

"I know she'll be back to the beautiful girl she was," said mom, choking back tears. "She's still a beautiful girl."

Perry prayed her daughter's face had been spared when she learned of the attack by a dog she estimates weighed between 80 and 100 pounds.

Her husband, Duane, was with Bailie visiting friends on Saturday. Bailie went out on the deck by herself to pet the husky — a dog she had played with a few times in the past without incident.

As soon as she started petting the dog it chomped down on the girl's face. Doctors later estimated just one bite did all the damage, including knocking out a tooth.

"I couldn't feel my face at all," the youngster said of the attack. "Now when I feel my cheek, it feels all weird."

After the bite, Bailie ran towards the house. Her father, alerted by the commotion, met her on the deck. Duane quickly got his daughter in



Bailie Perry, 8, of New Haven draws some comfort from her teddy bear, Bo, just days after she was attacked by a large husky. (GUARDIAN PHOTO)

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the truck and rushed her to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

Glenda learned from a quick call that Bailie was bitten by a dog and was being taken to hospital. She charged off not knowing what to expect.

“I just kept saying ‘please not her face, please not her face’,” said Glenda. “And when I saw her, I near dropped.”

The couple where at the hospital with their daughter for about 90 minutes. Bailie was patched up, but no plastic surgeon was available at the QEH, so Glenda and Duane were forced to take their girl to Halifax.

A plastic surgeon at the IWK children’s hospital spent 2.5 hours working on Bailie. Glenda is hopeful scarring will be minimal.

Worried Bailie might be traumatized by dogs after the ordeal, Glenda asked her daughter if she was comfortable with the family’s own dog — a boxer. Bailie said she wants to keep the dog, which has been the family pet since September.

The dog that bit Bailie is expected to be put down. Glenda believes the husky’s shots were up to date.

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