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Girl Undergoing Rabies Treatment After Dog Bite At School

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SALLISAW, Okla. -- Police are looking for a dog they believe bit several children at a local middle school Tuesday.

Officials said four kids were bitten at Tommie Spear Middle School in Sallisaw. Police said the chihuahua mix somehow made its way to the school.

Only one of the four children is undergoing rabies treatment, according to officials.

Melinda Mefford rushed to the school when she heard her 12-year-old daughter, Jessica, was bitten by a dog.

"It was just on her left hand, and it had broken skin in several different places," Mefford said.

Jessica is the bite victim who is undergoing rabies treatments. Doctors said Jessica will likely be just fine.

Randy Freeman is a Sallisaw animal control officer who responded to the call. He also found a dog near the school the next day. While they're unsure that this dog was the biter, the dog that was found has a similar description to the dog seen at the school.

Now, police are looking for that canine's owner.

"The dog is in impound right now, but (we have) no absolutely positive identification of the dog," Freeman said.

Luckily, that dog had a rabies tag, but the girl still had to undergo rabies shots just to be safe.

"We don't know that the dog had any kind of disease at all," Freeman said. "But at this point, this is just a precautionary measure. And the likelihood that the dog has rabies is very low."

Mefford said she hopes police find the dog's owner, and also gave her daughter some advice on how to handle stray animals.

"Just be careful with them when you're approaching a dog that you don't know," she said.

Police are looking for the dog's owner to come forward. If authorities find out who it is, they could receive citations for failure to restrain the animal. If the dog's owner doesn't come forward, the pooch will go up for adoption Friday.

School officials aren't sure how the dog got inside. They suspect a child carried it in or that animal supply wandered inside the building.

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