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Dog attack leads to lawsuit

05:10 PM CST on Tuesday, November 15, 2005

By **Doug Miller / 11 News**

Joey Sabala can be a quiet little boy -- especially when he's around dogs.

"Dog had his head, just right here -- a lock on his head right here," said Annette Sabala.



KHOU

Joey Sabala still has nightmares from the dog attack.

Joey was the victim of a dog attack back in August. He was sitting on this porch, playing with toy cars when his neighbor's German Shepherd attacked.

His grandfather saw what happened and grabbed Joey, but the dog just kept on biting.

A police officer finally fired a taser at the dog, hitting him so many times, the animal died.

"That's about an 80-pound, German-lab

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mix had us pinned against the wall, so I deployed my taser one time, got him on the ground," the officer told us on the day of the attack. "We tried to put a rope on him but he came out of the taser and he attacked the grandfather."

"He don't like me touching this one," said Joey's mom. She says Joe lies awake nights because of bad dreams.

"He has nightmares about dogs. I mean, when he sees a big dog walking down the street, he will literally start climbing on me," Annette Sabala said.

"We think of dogs as man's best friend. And in fact, in this case, it may be our children's worst nightmare," said Terry Bryant, who is representing the family in a lawsuit against the dog's owner.

In the meantime, his mother wonders when Joey Sabala's nightmares will end.

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