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Great Dane Bites Child In Sterling

10/19/2005 -- A Great Dane bit a 4-year-old boy Wednesday morning in Sterling, causing severe injuries to the child's head and face, Loudoun County Animal Control said.

Animal Control Supervisor Janette Reever said the department received a call at 8:10 a.m. to respond to the 200 block of North Lincoln Avenue for a dog bite.

Reever said the 2-year-old Great Dane bit the child on the head and face. The child was airlifted to a trauma center in Fairfax County. Reever said the injuries are severe, but she did not know if they were life threatening.

"We have identified the owner," she said. "The dog is going to be quarantined at the animal shelter for 10 days pending an investigation and the owners will make a decision about the dog at that time."

Reever said animal control does not have a prior history with the dog and the owners said they have never had a problem with the dog being aggressive. The dog had current vaccinations, she added. Reever said the dog belonged to a relative of the boy's; it was not running at large.

"We don't know the particulars," about the incident, she said.
