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Thursday, April 27, 2006 · Last updated 5:52 a.m. PT

Two young boys nipped by coyote in Seattle suburb

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BELLEVUE, Wash. -- Two small boys were nipped by a coyote in this suburb east of Seattle, and state wildlife officers were setting traps to try to catch and euthanize the animal.

Jacob Town, 4, nor Tristan Bec, 18 months, were released following treated for minor puncture wounds and scratches at hospitals and were started on a series of rabies shots as a precaution.

Residents were advised to secure garbage, keep pet food and pets indoors or in a secure compound and avoid feeding stray cats, which often are prey for coyotes, among other protective measures.

The older child was nipped in the bottom Tuesday evening while playing in the front yard of his home while his mother was doing yard work nearby, and the toddler was bitten on the ear and scalp about an hour later while playing with his mother and brother at Eastgate Elementary School.

Cassandra Town said she didn't see the first attack and learned what had happened only after her son said he'd been bitten by a dog and a commotion arose down the street when an adult neighbor reported being nipped by a coyote.

Rachelle Bec said she was about four feet from her little boy and had just turned her back to get a bottle of water from her stroller.

"When I turned back the coyote ran so fast and jumped on him and started to bite his ear," Bec said. "I turned around and threw my water bottle at him and it kind of startled the coyote."

Grade school Principal Anissa Bereano advised parents in a letter that children who walk to school go in groups and be accompanied by at least one adult. During recess the children will be barred from playing by a nearby greenbelt, supervisors will be given whistles and pupils walking outside will be given an adult escort, she added.

Capt. Bill Hebner of the state Department of Fish and Wildlife said the attacks were the most recent of five

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Critics want Medicaid drug deadline extended (3:31 p.m. PT)

Army releases autistic recruit from enlistment contract

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confirmed coyote encounters since March 2s in the Eastgate area south of Interstate 90 and a couple miles north of Cougar Mountain Regional Wildlife Park. All likely involve the same animal they were in the same area, he added.

Hebner said the biting was the first of which he was aware in 12 years of work in a region stretching from the Seattle area about 100 miles to the Canadian border.

"It's rare here, but it is going on in the western United States," he said. "It was just a matter of time. I expect this to be recurring problem for a long time."

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(3:23 p.m. PT)

Microsoft announces 'Live Anywhere' online gaming service
(2:46 p.m. PT)

EWU faculty censures trustees over contract talks
(2:43 p.m. PT)

Food companies going after Hispanic families
(2:10 p.m. PT)

Cheney and EWU will miss Seahawks when they are gone
(1:58 p.m. PT)

Seahawks make move to Renton official
(1:51 p.m. PT)

Hispanics offer a fast-growing market for food producers
(1:34 p.m. PT)

Death of a transient in Purdy
(1:27 p.m. PT)

Washington golfer Paige Mackenzie
(1:14 p.m. PT)

With eye on turning pro, Mackenzie looks to cap collegiate career
(1:14 p.m. PT)

WTO sets up panel to examine U.S. claims of EU government subsidies to Airbus
(12:45 p.m. PT)

Man returned to face Spokane murder charge
(12:15 p.m. PT)

Online high school to become state's first to offer diplomas
(12:08 p.m. PT)

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