



Hearing to determine fate of dog after second attack

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CORPUS CHRISTI - A 5-year-old Corpus Christi girl is recovering from plastic surgery, after a dog attack on the island, but the type of dog is surprising. It's not the first, but the second time the same black labrador has attacked.

Wednesday morning, a judge allowed animal control to keep the dog locked up for a longer period of time. It's a little ironic the name of the dog we're talking about is "bit" and that's exactly what the 2-year-old lab did to a 5-year-old girl's nose back on Dec. 4.

She went straight to the emergency room, and she underwent plastic surgery last week.

It happened at the home of the owner, Lee Little, and his dog has been locked up at Animal Control since then. At the hearing held Tuesday morning, city officials said they're in the process of declaring the dog "dangerous."

The girl's family and the dog's owner both spoke. Cheryl Grundy lives two houses down from Little. She said she never knew there was a mean bone in the dog's body, and she didn't know the black lab had struck before. Another neighbor was attacked six

months ago by the same lab.

That man is Kevin Brown, a neighbor who never took action against the owner then, but five days ago, filed an affidavit with the city when he found out the dog had bitten someone else.

"Bit ran to me and attacked me. He first bit my leg, and as I attempted to defend myself, my left forearm," Brown said.

He went on to say, "Bit is a big dog, and I had deep puncture wounds, bruising, and numbness of my arm."

The owner argued his dog was not vicious and was only acting out of jealousy. The victim's mom was standing next to her daughter when it happened, and she said the owner, who was home, never warned her about the dog being unfriendly.

Now it's up to Animal Control and the owner to prove their case. Animal control officials said they're building their case to protect others.

"A normal dangerous dog would be that the animal caused bodily injury," Kelli Copeland of Animal Care Services, said. "What I'm going for is that this dog caused severe bodily injury."

The parents of the young girl said they want to keep another family from having to go through the same experience.

The dog's owner had no comment. Animal Control is scheduling another hearing to decide what will happen to the lab.

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