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News

Brothers Rescue 10-Year-Old From Dog Attack

Dog Remains Loose In Joliet

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JOLIET, Ill. -- Two brothers rescued a girl from a dog attack Saturday as the large animal bit the 10-year-old five times and knocked her down twice.

Brett and Justin Boyter charged the dog and scared it off after it attacked Lauren Elliott in Joliet.

Wearing a red collar, the large tan animal -- possibly a Labrador retriever mix weighing more than 100 pounds -- remained on the loose as of Friday.



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"I told them, 'Thank you so much. You saved my life,'" Lauren said Monday. "I was just bursting out with tears, and my body felt like it was going to drop."

Lauren was treated at St. Joseph Medical Center in Joliet. The girl's mother, Stefanie Elliott, called police.

Lauren has a bite wound above her right eye, as well as wounds on her right forearm, elbow and wrist. She also has a wound on her left hand.

On Saturday morning, Lauren was at the home of her friend Marissa Cerrillo, 10. The girls planned to go sledding with other friends.

As the dog approached the girls, they said they recognized the potential danger.

"I was walking back. I was like, 'I'm not touching that

dog,'" Marissa said.

When the dog attacked Lauren, the girls said that Marissa ran to get help.

The dog knocked the girl to the ground and bit her wrist. The girl struggled to get back up and was knocked down again. This time, the dog bit her above her right eye, she said.

The second time the girl got up, the dog sank its teeth into her right forearm, she said.

Shoveling snow nearby were Brett Boyter, 25, and Justin Boyter, 24.

"We were just working when all of a sudden we heard this girl screaming and the dog was barking," Brett Boyter said. "It was a big dog. (On its hind legs) the dog was at least as tall as she was -- probably taller."

"We started charging at it, yelling at it," he said. "When the dog saw us coming at it, it didn't leave, but it backed off a little bit."

The brothers then got between the girl and the dog.

"Once the dog let go, our main concern was the little girl," Brett Boyter said. "The dog took off, and, honestly, I haven't seen it before or since. We weren't concerned about trying to grab it or capture it at that point."

Stefanie Elliott said she's glad Lauren was bundled up in preparation to go sledding.

"If it was the summertime, she really would have gotten hurt," she said.

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