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Five-year-old recovering from dog attack

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A five-year-old boy attacked by dogs is recovering in hospital after receiving 190 stitches to mend a gash in his neck.

Police say they hope to talk to young Cayden Stevens to learn more about the attack before they take action against two German Shepherds seized from the property where the incident took place Tuesday.

"We're still looking for potential witnesses that will help us put together the last pieces of the puzzle," said Staff Sgt. Glen Hayner.

Police were dispatched to an acreage near 24 St. and 186 Ave. after the boy's adult cousin reported the attack. The boy had apparently been playing on the property while his cousin was cleaning a residence there.

The injured lad was rushed to the South Calgary Urgent Care Centre after his cousin found him lying on the ground and bleeding.

The boy's father, David Stevens, said his son is being stoic about the traumatic attack.

"As soon as I got there (the medical center), I asked him how he was doing and everytime you ask how he's doing, he says 'good.' And there was no tears throughout the whole thing."

Still, Stevens says he was shocked to see his young son in such a state.

"It was devastating. I could barely look at him. To see your son like that, or your daughter, or your wife, someone close to you. It's tough," said Stevens."

The boy suffered a number of cuts and punctures to his shoulders, face and neck and lost a significant amount of blood as a result.

The dogs seized from the acreage are being held by Animal Services in Calgary.

The boy's father says he wants the dogs destroyed if they're found responsible. Police say they're trying to determine just that. There has been some speculation a coyote may have been involved in the attack.

"If there is enough reason to believe these dogs are dangerous, there's a potential for a destruction order or that sort of thing, that would be in the extreme," said Hayner.



Cayden Stevens
(Courtesy Stevens family)

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