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Morning Show

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National News

National Wire

World News

Commentary

Weird News

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Dog attacks child at pet adoption rally

Last Update: 2/22/2006

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(SPANISH FORT, Ala.) February 22 -- Tiffany Welch of Baldwin County is recovering from wounds following a vicious bite from a Labrador Retriever. The attack happened during a pet adoption event at a PetSmart in Spanish Fort, sponsored by the Baldwin County Humane Society.

Tiffany's mother described the attack, "They were having an adoption rally; we were petting the animals. I turned around for a split second, and it bit her. You could see her jaw bone."

Emergency Medical personnel took Tiffany to Fairhope's Thomas Hospital. Her mother says it took doctors nearly two hours to sew up the three-inch laceration and three puncture wounds. Doctors say these wounds will probably scar the child for life.

Tiffany's mother feels the emotional scars run much deeper, "She wakes up with nightmares two or three times a night, screaming bloody murder just like she did the day it happened."

Officials from the Baldwin County Humane Society say the dog has been quarantined and is currently being housed at a veterinarian's office in Foley. They also say the dog had no known history of violence prior to the attack.

Today, Tiffany Welch's mother has a warning for all other parents, "Be careful with your kids; keep your kids close. Any dog can attack, now Tiffany is permanently scarred."

Officials with the Humane Society say the incident is still under investigation, but that the dog had its rabies shots prior to the attack.



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