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Dog put down after boy attacked

By Jamie Berry
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A FATHER whose son was attacked by a friend's dog said yesterday that putting the animal down was the only option.

Police confirmed last night that the owners of the dog had their pet destroyed after it attacked the seven-year-old boy in Colac on Monday.

Steve Rose was relieved yesterday as his son Trent recovered in the Geelong Hospital after being bitten by the dog, named Bonnie.

Trent was patting Bonnie, believed to be a bull terrier cross, when the dog "just turned around and bit him", Mr Rose said.

"She's a good dog, she's just old," he said.

"In this case, it's just an old dog that was grumpy at times. Bonnie probably didn't mean it, but it's just something that's happened."

It was the fourth reported dog attack across Australia in the past week.

Three of the attacks were in Victoria. In NSW, a two-year-old girl was mauled to death by her family's dingo cross in Eden, on the state's south coast.

With stitches in his upper lip, Trent was discharged from hospital yesterday afternoon.

"You only have to look at his marks ... how close it got to his eye," Mr Rose said. "Bonnie could have really, really done some major damage.

"It was enough to give him a scare, enough to give me a scare."

A spokeswoman for the Colac Otway Shire Council said local laws officers attended the scene yesterday at the request of police.

"As this incident occurred on private property it is a police matter and is currently subject to investigation by Colac police," the spokeswoman said.

RSPCA president Hugh Wirth said young children should never be left alone with dogs.

He said about 80 per cent of dog attacks took place in the family home.

Dr Wirth said people often did not consider the suitability of breeds when buying dogs.

"They don't necessarily think of or recognise the genetic make-up of that puppy," Dr Wirth said.

A recent spate of attacks

JANUARY 2 A seven-year-old boy suffers facial injuries after being attacked by a friend's dog in Colac.

DECEMBER 29 A Rosebud woman in her 70s is attacked by a dog as she walks her pet.

DECEMBER 28 Two pit bulls pounce on a Werribee couple trying to help the dogs' owner after he fell from his wheelchair.

DECEMBER 27 A two-year-old girl is mauled to death by her family's dingo cross in Eden, NSW.

DECEMBER 21 A three-year-old boy suffers facial injuries after an attack in Yallourn.

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