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Parents 'disgusted' as dog let-off

The family of a schoolgirl who suffered horrific facial injuries after being attacked by a dog said today they were "disgusted" with a court's decision not to put down the animal.

Demi Fraser, 11, needed more than 100 stitches after being attacked by the bull mastiff, whose puppies she had gone to see.

The youngster, from Arbroath, who protected her little sister from the animal, underwent a five-hour operation and dental work, and next month will undergo further surgery to try to reduce scarring.



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Her family say they cannot believe that a court has now ruled that the dog should not be destroyed.

Demi's father, Iain told The Courier: "We had been telling Demi that the dog would be put to sleep and when we told her she just burst into tears and a lot of the memories of that day just came flooding back.

"We can only assume that the JP (Justice of the Peace) didn't look properly at the evidence, and especially the photographs of Demi which were taken shortly after the attack, because I believe that any right-thinking person could only have come to one conclusion."

Demi was attacked after going with her father and her six-year-old sister to visit the dog's puppies.

A Crown Office spokeswoman confirmed that the dog's owner, Barbara Selden, appeared at Arbroath District Court charged under the Dogs Act 1871 of failing to keep the animal under proper control.

She added that Mrs Selden admitted the offence and it was ruled that the dog be kept under control.

Demi's mother, Wendy, who works as a nurse at Ninewells, said although her daughter still loves dogs, she is terrified at the thought of bumping into the one who attacked her.

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