

Dog savages playing toddler at home

By Evelyn Yamine

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THE NSW Government was under pressure to place more breeds on its list of banned dogs after yet another savage attack.

Two-year-old Jacob Kent was badly hurt when a Japanese akita dog attacked him as he played with his sisters on the lawn of his family's Horsley Park house in Sydney's west yesterday about 10am (AEST).

Unlike pit bull terriers, American pit bulls, Japanese tosas and Argentinian and Brazilian fighting dogs, the Japanese akita is not banned in NSW.

"Following the second dog attack on a child in three weeks it is now clear there is the need for an urgent review of the laws and the list of restricted dogs," Opposition local government spokesman John Turner said.

"Seven months after enacting new laws, NSW children are still being mauled."

In other recent attacks by dogs not on the banned lists:

- **TWO** girls attacked by a bull mastiff cross in Colyton on June 21;
- **AN** elderly woman underwent plastic surgery after a neighbour's cattle dog bit her near Laurieton on the mid-North Coast on June 18; and
- **A TODDLER** needed plastic surgery after being attacked by a black labrador kelpie cross in Belrose on April 25.

The Japanese akita, a pure bred hunting dog, escaped from his enclosure in a neighbours' house by digging a hole under an electrified fence.

Jacob's frantic mother Laura yesterday said she saw the dog on top of her bloodied son after hearing his screams.

He suffered multiple bite and puncture wounds to his head, chest, back and thighs.

"He has wounds everywhere. It was awful. He loves dogs but I'm sure he's not going to go near a dog again," she said.

The owner came and took his dog back home after the attack and it was seized by Fairfield City Council animal controllers a short time later.

The dog was being held in an animal shelter overnight. It has not yet been decided if the dog will be destroyed.

Local Government Minister Kerry Hickey said the current NSW dog laws were among the "toughest in Australia".

Jacob was taken to Liverpool Hospital but was transferred to The Children's Hospital at Westmead to

undergo surgery on his left leg.

He remained in a serious but stable condition last night.

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