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News

Dog's Owner Faces Charges After Alleged Attack

Victim Should Make Full Recovery

POSTED: 4:52 pm EDT July 19, 2006
UPDATED: 6:42 pm EDT July 19, 2006

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COLUMBUS, Ohio -- A dog on the city's east side mauled a 9-year-old boy. The victim was injured so badly that he needed medical care. Now, the dog's owner is facing criminal charges.

The victim is recovering, but the city attorney's office filed charges to make sure the dog's owner and others know that dog violations are now a priority, **NBC 4's** Nancy Burton reported.

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SLIDESHOW: Images From Case



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Chris Jones said he was attacked by his neighbor's chow mix outside his front door.

Sharon Wright, the dog's owner, said her pet is not vicious and that the alleged attack was an accident.

Photos documented the puncture wounds allegedly caused by the dog.

"You have to be responsible for other people and think of children, especially before you release your dog into the street," said Therese Jones, the victim's mother.

Wright was also in court two months ago for failing to have the dog registered, Burton reported.

"Someone has a pet running loose in the neighborhood hurting people. I just don't think this is a responsible pet owner," said assistant city attorney Bill

Hedrick.

The city attorney's office said it is taking dog complaints more seriously.

Charges of having an animal at large and failing to control an animal are punishable by six months in jail and a \$500 fine.

Hedrick said the prosecutor can also ask that the dog owner pay any medical bills or vet bills as part of the punishment.

Watch **NBC 4** and refresh **nbc4i.com** for additional information.

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