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Owner of dogs faces charges in attack

Stafford boy, 5, was rescued as neighbors fought off the animals

BY KIRAN KRISHNAMURTHY
 TIMES-DISPATCH STAFF WRITER

Jul 27, 2006

FREDERICKSBURG -- The owner of two dogs that attacked a 5-year-old Stafford County boy was charged yesterday in the case.



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Misdemeanor warrants were obtained against Gregory Kolen, 44, but had not been served as of yesterday afternoon, said Michael Null, the county's chief animal warden.

Kolen is charged with two counts each of allowing a dangerous dog to run at large, having no record of rabies vaccination, having no county animal license and failure to provide adequate care for an animal.

Stafford Sheriff Charles Jett said two neighbors rescued the young boy, who was attacked in his yard on Sunday afternoon.

The neighbors, both off-duty law-enforcement officers, kicked the German shepherd and a black Labrador mix away from the boy and got the child inside a house, Jett said. The child was bitten on the arm and on his side. He was treated at a local hospital and released.

One of the neighbors told authorities that he retrieved a gun from his house and shot the dogs after they continued to act aggressively. The Lab died but the wounded German shepherd ran away, according to Null.

Animal-control officers have repeatedly searched nearby woods in recent days but had not found the wounded dog as of yesterday afternoon. The incident occurred off U.S. 1 in central Stafford.

Null said he believes a physician recommended the boy undergo rabies treatments, partly because one of the dogs had not been found and could not therefore be tested for the presence of the deadly disease.

Kolen was charged under Stafford's county ordinances. Letting dangerous dogs run at large is punishable by up to a year in jail, a \$2,500 fine or both. The other charges are punishable by a maximum \$250 fine.

Contact staff writer Kiran Krishnamurthy at krishnamurthy@timesdispatch.com



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