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## Two-year-old fatally mauled Responsible dogs put down

By CP

POWERVIEW, Man. — RCMP say two dogs who fatally mauled a two-year-old boy have been euthanized.

Derian Bird wandered from his home on the Hollow Water First Nation on Thursday morning.

An hour later, a 17-year-old babysitter and his two older siblings noted his absence.

The child's uncle discovered the toddler's mangled remains on a neighbour's property 200 metres away, not far from several chained and loose dogs.

Two husky-cross dogs with blood stains on their coats were immediately separated out and RCMP Insp. John Ferguson said Friday both were put down.

Manitoba's chief medical examiner Dr. Thambirajah Balachandra said he will refer the case to his inquest advisory committee.

However, no medical examiner has called an inquest into a fatal dog mauling in recent memory, Balachandra said.

The dogs' remains are to be examined by University of Manitoba veterinarians in a procedure known as a necropsy, an autopsy for animals, that was to begin late Friday.

One of the dogs had been chained and was part of a sled-dog team. The other was loose at the time of the fatal mauling.

No one witnessed the attack.

An autopsy on the youngster confirmed the boy died of massive trauma and blood loss.

RCMP say they're still investigating the death.

The toddler's parents didn't answer requests for interviews.

Hollow Water Chief Ian Bushie spoke for the whole community when he called the mauling a tragedy that has shaken the entire community.

"The family has the support, 100%, of the chief and council. We're still waiting to sit down with the family, but they're making arrangements for a funeral.

"We've a very close-knit community and we consider everyone a friend," Bushie said from the reserve about 190 kilometres northeast of Winnipeg.

Five children have been mauled to death in dog attacks since 1996 on Manitoba First Nations — Tadoule Lake, Nelson House, and twice in Cross Lake.

In three cases, the dog was a pet that got loose, the rest were strays.

In Winnipeg, where authorities can recall the odd attack by dogs but never a fatal mauling, a stray dog will spark calls to the Humane Society or the city animal pound.

On some northern reserves, there are standing orders to shoot stray dogs on sight.