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Dog Attacks 8-Year-Old Boy In Lee's Summit

Boy Suffers Facial, Head Wounds

POSTED: 8:46 pm CDT June 30, 2006

UPDATED: 10:34 pm CDT June 30, 2006

LEE'S SUMMIT, Mo. -- An 8-year-old boy was seriously injured this week when a neighbor's dog attacked him, KMBC's Bev Chapman reported.

Austin Sammons, of Greenwood, said he had played with the dog before while visiting a friend in his grandmother's Lee's Summit neighborhood on Village Drive, but on Tuesday the dog named Bear, an Akita and chow mix, did something unexpected -- he grabbed Austin by the head.

"I was petting the dog. He growled, and I tried to walk away and he attacked me," the 8-year-old said. "I tried to move away, but he was still holding onto my face."

The dog took a chunk of Austin's cheek, and he also had a puncture wound in the back of his skull.

Bear's owner, the grandfather of one of Austin's friends, pulled the dog off the boy.

"The grandpa brought him over with a towel on his face, and he kept saying, 'It's bad; it's really bad.' And he never told my mom what happened," said Holly Sammons, Austin's mother.

The boy had plastic surgery on Wednesday.

Bear remains in quarantine for 10 days at the Lee's Summit Animal Shelter.

Neighbors said this isn't the first time a dog who lived at that house has bitten someone.

"When my brother got bit, he just opened the door and the dog ran out of the house. But there's been numerous times when the dog jumped the fence and got out of the yard," resident Michael Layden said.

"After seeing what (Bear) did, I don't know why you'd want to bring a dog home after that. As much as I love my dogs, I wouldn't want to bring them back after he did that," Holly Sammons said.

The dog's owner told Chapman it was a horrible situation, and that he was recommending the dog be euthanized.

How To Prevent Dog Bites

,
, Never approach an unfamiliar dog.

,
, If approached by an unfamiliar dog, stand still.

,
, Never run from a dog and never scream around a dog.

,
, If you believe a dog is about to attack you, try to place something between yourself and the dog, such as a backpack or a bicycle.

,
, If a dog knocks you over, roll into a ball, cover your face and stay still.

,
, Children should never play with dogs unless supervised by an adult.

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- , Children should never approach a dog unless supervised by an adult.
- , Children should tell an adult if they see a stray dog or a dog acting strangely.
- , Don't look a dog right in the eye.
- , Don't disturb a dog that is sleeping, eating or caring for puppies.
- , Don't play with a dog without allowing it to see and sniff you first.
- , Adults should never leave an infant or young child alone with any dog, not even the family pet.

To read more about dog bite prevention, visit www.hsus.org.

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