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Boy, 4, Recovering After Dog Bit His Face

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Child Startled Sleeping Great Dane

POSTED: 4:57 pm CST March 20, 2006
UPDATED: 7:15 pm CST March 20, 2006

KANSAS CITY, Mo. -- A 150-pound dog bit a child who was one-fourth his size over the weekend, and now the victim's mother wants action.

KMBC's Robb Yagmin reported that 4-year-old Caleb may have scars for the rest of his life.

"He jumped up and bit my head," Caleb said.

Caleb's mother, Emily Durgan, said her son got 18 stitches Sunday after Frank, a Great Dane, put his jaws around Caleb's face.

"The teeth grazed his face, got him by the lower jaw -- he got the whole face," Durgan said.

She said Caleb has known the dog a long time.

"He's a big dog; he rides him like a horse," Durgan said.

The dog and the boy were together at Caleb's father's house. Durgan said the dog was sleeping when Caleb startled him, and the Great Dane reacted violently.

"Eighteen stitches -- 11 right by his eye," Durgan said.

Animal control officers cited the dog's owner for not registering him. The officers determined that the dog's behavior didn't rise to the level to deem him dangerous.

Durgan disagreed.

"I've never been put in this situation -- I don't want it to die, but you don't want it to bite another baby," Durgan said.

Yagmin reported that the dog's owner needs to provide current vaccination documents for the dog before it can be released.

How To Prevent Dog Bites



 **Video: Boy Recovering After Dog Bit His Face**



- 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.
- 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.

Frank, a Great Dane, was taken to an animal shelter after he bit a 4-year-old boy in the face.

To read more about dog bite prevention, visit the [Humane Society](#).

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