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Sunday, May 14, 2006

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Authorities say 4-year-old recovering from dog attack

Associated Press

CLARKSVILLE, Tenn. - A 4-year-old girl is recovering at home after she suffered injuries to her face and chest from an attack by a neighbor's Labrador retriever, officials said.

Clarksville Police Sgt. Daryl Brewer said Abby Marie Bent was playing in the neighbor's backyard with some friends Saturday morning when the attack occurred. He said the dog bit her face and chest multiple times.

Bent was airlifted to Vanderbilt University Medical Center in stable condition, but a hospital official said Sunday that she was released Saturday night.

Authorities are unsure about exactly what happened. They said the dog was attached to a 15-foot cable that was secured to a deck when the incident occurred.

"Because no adults were around, we really aren't sure exactly why the dog attacked; we don't know if the child provoked it or what," Brewer said. "The lady who owns the dog said she came outside when she heard him growling and saw (Abby) running toward her house. She said the other little kids were running around upset."

The dog's owners told police his vaccinations were all current and that he had not previously shown signs of aggression. The owners were instructed to quarantine the dog until Montgomery County Animal Control officers could investigate further.

No chargers were expected against the owners, police said.

Last week, authorities said four dogs attacked a 60-year-old woman and killed her. One of the dogs suspected in the mauling is a Labrador retriever.

Information from: *The Leaf-Chronicle*, <http://www.theleafchronicle.com>

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