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8:00	Most Outrageous Moments
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9:30	Scrubs
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11:00	NBC 2 News @ 11

Victim's indecision spares dog's life

NBC2 News

Last updated on: 4/26/2006 4:52:56 PM

LEE COUNTY: A dog that faced imminent death for biting a woman has been given a reprieve and will live - at least for now. Hightower, a wolf-husky mix, and his mother will stay quarantined at the Lee County Animal Shelter for several more days. The victim couldn't positively identify whether Hightower or his mother bit her, so both dogs will stay quarantined until it's clear whether or not the dogs have rabies.

They say every dog has its day and Wednesday was Hightower's day.

"It's just a great feeling. My children are coming home," said Howard Ellis.

The vocal wolf-husky mix was quarantined at the Lee County animal shelter, locked-up and accused of biting a jogger Saturday afternoon.

"They're great animals and I know my animals wouldn't hurt anybody," said Ellis.

Hightower awaited a possible death, until Wednesday when his salvation came from an unlikely source.

"She was emotional. Just looking at the dogs was bringing back the memory of the attack," said Ria Brown of Lee County Animal Services.

The victim, who didn't want to talk, couldn't positively identify Hightower as her assailant.

"During an attack, there's a lot happening, so we would just rather err on the side of caution and keep both animals here, quarantined," said Brown.

Hightower's cell-mate is his own mother, Princess Olivia.

The dogs look alike.

"If he would have been put down, it would have been terrible," said Ellis.

Hightower and Princess Olivia will remain at the animal shelter until May 2nd. During that time, they'll be monitored for rabies.

The owner plans to build a more secure pen for his pups. A broken lock led to their release and the unfortunate chain of events.

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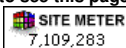
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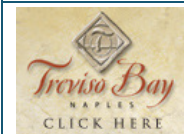
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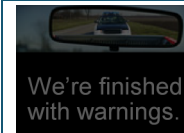


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