

Post Independent

Dog bites 13-year-old in the face

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October 29, 2006

Police were called to Valley View Hospital Tuesday afternoon after a dog bit a 13-year-old boy on the face. The boy received four stitches under his right eye, four in his chin, and 10 in his right cheek, according to police reports.

The dog's owner, Tracey Yajko of Glenwood Springs, was issued a misdemeanor summons for a "vicious animal."

Yajko, a former Colorado Animal Rescue (CARE) board member, is currently the kennel supervisor and a dog trainer for CARE and showed deep regrets for the incident.

"It was just an accident," Yajko said. "The boy is my neighbor, and I am very sorry for what has happened. It was just a bad situation."

The boy reportedly entered the alley behind his house when the dog became spooked. Yajko said that she then came out and took a hold of the dog by the collar and attempted to calm it down. Then the boy again approached the dog, and that is when the dog bit him.

The dog was reported as a Catahoula mix, which is a relative of the shepherd breed.

"I feel fully responsible for the issue," Yajko said. "I would never expect my dog to do this type of thing. We forget that dogs are animals, they cannot tell us to back off when they feel threatened, and they will use their teeth."

The boy's mother said she did not want to comment on the incident.

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