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Boy In Hospital After Dog Attack, Mom Angered



Jason DeRusha
Reporting

(WCCO) An eight-year-old boy is in the hospital after a dog bit him repeatedly. The boy was attacked by an Akita, weighing approximately 140 pounds.

DeVonta Prince was bitten numerous times he waited for his school bus at East 36th Street in Minneapolis.

"Right now he's not doing too good at all," said his mother, Tracy Hoskins. "He's coming in and out in pain."

Hoskins said her son endured surgeries on his head and leg, and currently can't move his arm nor can he feel his fingers.

It could have been much worse -- quick actions by two Good Samaritans to stop the attack.

Ruben Mendoza ran out of his house without any shoes when he heard a child was being attacked by a dog. He grabbed a shovel, which he later used to stop the dog.

Mendoza found the boy lying in the street with dog on top of him. He'd been bitten several times and was bleeding.

"He was screaming ... I see the boy was screaming," said Mendoza

Ruben hit the dog with the shovel to get it away from the Prince. Then the dog started chasing him. He told the boy to run away and the dog went after the youngster again.

A man driving by stopped to help and both men kept the dog away from the injured victim.

Eventually, the dog calmed down when its owner came to the scene.

"They were very upset this was happening," said Mendoza.

Mendoza said the dog was often tied up on this fence, but other neighbors said when it was in this enclosure it often got out. It had previously attacked another dog.

"I'm very angry, very angry," said Hoskins. "The dog locked on him three different times and he was bit a whole lot. Too many times," she said. "He's like, 'Mom, the dog almost killed me, the dog almost killed me.' That's all he's been saying."

Kristin Moran said her dog was not hurt badly in the attack, but she worried about the children in the neighborhood.

"It scares me because I have two small kids. If it would attack somebody at a bus stop, who's to say it wouldn't attack if I was out there with my kids," said Moran.

Minneapolis Animal control took the dog and the owners allowed it to be euthanized to test for rabies. Animal control officers want to remind everyone to report dangerous dogs.

"The more history we have on an animal, the more aggressive action we can take," said Marilyn Fisher, manager of shelter operations at Minneapolis Animal Care and Control.

Minneapolis Animal Control had no previous reports on the dog that attacked the boy Friday. The city of Minneapolis is considering a one strike and out ordinance for dangerous dogs. That means after one attack, the dog would have to be euthanized or leave the city.

The city attorney has been notified, but it's not clear yet whether the owner will face misdemeanor charges. The prosecutor would have to find if the owner had intent or was negligent.

Hoskins believes her son will be in the hospital for several more days. She's hopeful his injuries won't become infected, leading to even more surgeries.

"Seeing him up there suffering like this ... I'd rather it be me up there than him," she said.

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