

This is a printer friendly version of an article from the **Courier-Post**
To print this article open the file menu and choose Print.

[Back](#)

NEWS UPDATE  [e-mail newsletter](#)

Dog attacks, hospitalizes 7-year-old

Neighbor's German shepherd blamed in incident

By DANA FORDE
Courier-Post Staff

SOMERDALE

Seven-year-old Frankie Lovello is recovering today from a vicious dog attack that left him with a broken arm and eight stitches.

His mother, Mineyo Lovello said Frankie was putting his bicycle away in the shed of their Cornell Avenue home on Monday afternoon in Somerdale when a neighbor's German shepherd tackled him.

"He was trying to come back through the back door of the house when the dog started biting him," Lovello said. "My daughter was in the kitchen doing homework and heard him scream."

Lovello said she and her husband Frank ran from the living room to the backyard and started yelling at the dog, named Ozzie, who then ran away. Frankie was treated at Cooper University Hospital in Camden for a broken arm and bite marks to his face and chest. Lovello said she was surprised by the attack since Ozzie frequently visited the home to play with her family's dog Coda. Ozzie, she said, was never aggressive toward Coda or her children.

"He tried to push through the back door but he never tackled anyone," Lovello said.

Neighbor Spring Minter, who lives across the street from Ozzie's owners, said she has never heard of any problems with the dog. Minter added that Ozzie usually travels with his owners.

"I've never seen the dog by itself," Minter said.

Lovello said Frankie has not been to school since the attack but will probably return next week.

"He's going to the doctor on Friday to get the stitches out," she said.

Somerdale police did not immediately return phone calls. According to media reports, Ozzie's owners were scheduled to appear in municipal court Tuesday evening.

Lovello said Ozzie's owners and all dog owners should take more precautions with their pets.

"My dog is chained up in the backyard," she said. "I know they love the dog but they have to put the safety of people and children first."

Reach Dana Forde at (856) 486-2917 or dforde@courierpostonline.com.

Published: April 25, 2007 7:31AM