

Boy, 4, badly hurt in dog attack

A four-year-old boy has been seriously injured after being attacked by a dog near Holywell in Flintshire.

An off-duty policeman and the boy's father intervened and all three were injured. They were taken to Ysbyty Glan Clwyd in Bodelwyddan, Denbighshire.

Both men were treated for bite wounds. The boy remains in hospital with serious, not life-threatening injuries.

Police say the animal's breed has not yet been established, but it was not banned under the Dangerous Dogs Act.

It was later destroyed by a vet.

It is understood the youngster suffered injuries to his arm and torso. A police spokeswoman said the boy had not suffered facial injuries.

Police were called at 1920 BST (1820 GMT) on Tuesday after reports the boy had been attacked on the Tan y Felin estate in Greenfield.

An off-duty police officer, Pc Tony Jones, 38, witnessed the attack and ran to the boy's aid.

Bandage

He was bitten by the animal - described by one witness as a Rhodesian Ridgeback called Bruno - and required hospital treatment.

At his home on Wednesday, Pc Jones, who has a bandaged left hand, confirmed the injured boy was taken to his house and an ambulance was called, but said he was unable to discuss the incident further.

A North Wales Police spokeswoman said: "He will be a key witness and we will most probably be taking a statement from him."

The spokeswoman confirmed the dog was not banned under the Dangerous Dogs Act, but added: "We are looking at other aspects of the case."

One neighbour who witnessed the attack said the little boy was walking along a pavement with a man - thought to be his father - when the dog came out of a house and pounced on the child.

"Screaming"

The witness, who did not want to be named, said a woman she believed was the dog's owner jumped on top of the animal and tried to wrestle it off the small child.

The neighbour added: "A man was screaming at the woman to get the dog off the child.

"She had jumped on top of it and was trying to grab its collar to pull it off. It didn't seem to be on a lead.

"Somehow they got the dog off and the man picked the boy up in his arms and ran up the hill with him. The child seemed to be injured.

"Awful"

"As they were walking away, the dog went for them again but the man somehow managed to escape. It was awful."

There was no answer at the large detached home where neighbours said the dog came from.

Another witness, who said she lived next door to Pc Jones, said: "I saw him come out of next door.

"I just heard 'get the dog off me'. The next thing, the police and ambulance arrived."

Greenfield councillor David Wilkes said he was shocked by news of the attack.

He added: "As parents we're always concerned about dogs mixing with young children, toddlers and babies.

"This highlights the need for parents and dog owners to be alert at all times to the potential danger."

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