

SARATOGIAN.com

08/28/2007

Dog bite lands man in hospital

By JIM KINNEY , The Saratogian

CORINTH - A Comstock Road man needed treatment at Saratoga Hospital Tuesday afternoon after his own dog bit him in the throat causing at least one puncture wound.

The 27-year-old man had been playing with the dog, Corinth Animal Control Officer Delbert "Sonny" Clothier said Tuesday. The victim is expected to be OK, Clothier said.

"It wasn't an aggressive bite," Clothier said.

He described the dog as large, about 125 pounds, and of an indeterminate breed. Clothier said he didn't have the victim's name Tuesday afternoon because he only had a short time to interview the man's wife before she rushed to the hospital.

The victim experienced some difficulty breathing and had to be transported by ambulance, Clothier said. For now, the dog is penned up at home. Clothier said he planned to meet with the family Tuesday night and verify that the dog has its rabies vaccination. If it is vaccinated, he can allow the dog to serve its state-mandated 10-day quarantine at home.



If he can't verify that it has its shots, he must take the dog to the county animal shelter in Ballston Spa and quarantine the dog there.

County Animal Shelter director Dan Butler said the quarantine is mandated by state law because if the rabies virus was active in the animal's salivary glands at the time of the bite it will show symptoms of the disease 10 days later. It's up to individual animal control officers if the quarantine is done at the animal's home or at the shelter.

"If the officer trusts the family, he'll usually check on the situation every day," he said.

At the shelter, veterinarian Dr. Frank Blaisdell checks quarantined pets every day and at the end of the 10 days, he vaccinates them against rabies and their owners can pick them up.

Reach Jim Kinney at jkinney@saratogian.com or 518-583-8729 ext.216.

		<p>Earn your degree in one of the most convenient and efficient ways possible.</p>	<input type="text"/>
<p>University of next level, here I come</p>			

©The Saratogian 2007