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YET ANOTHER NEGATIVE STORY ABOUT WOLVES

Wolfdog Bites Bend Boy

By Joseph Friedrichs, 2-19-07

It was supposed to be a family weekend of fun and relaxation. Then the wolfdog showed up.

A family get together in La Pine on Saturday took a turn for the worst when a ferocious "wolfdog" bit a 5-year-old Bend boy on the face, prompting the boy's 9-year-old brother to retaliate against the animal with an attack of his own.

Ty Walsingham, 5, and his older brother, Chase Wittenberg, were visiting the home of their grandfather Stephen Bergseng, in La Pine, about 30 miles south of Bend, when the encounter happened with a neighbor's 10-year-old wolf-dog hybrid in the home's backyard, according to a story by Barney Lerten at KTVZ.com.

Ty was taken by ambulance to St. Charles Medical Center where he underwent a three-hour surgery Saturday night. He returned to his Bend home yesterday afternoon.

The 10-year-old wolf-dog mix was taken to the Humane Society of Central Oregon shelter in Bend, according to a news release from Deschutes County sheriff's Sgt. Scott Beard and Deputy Gary Barrett. The animal was not severely injured from Chase's attack, which apparently included at least one solid punch.

Oregon law requires all dogs that bite someone to be quarantined for 10 days. A jail sentence, so to say.

Beard told KTVZ.com they were unsure of the circumstances that led to the dog bite but that interviews of those at the home would take place Monday as part of the ongoing investigation.

A wolfdog is a domesticated subspecies of the wolf, according to Wikipedia. The animal has been at the center of much controversy in recent decades, as many cities and counties outlaw the animal or restrict its ownership.

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By Carole Baskin, CEO of Big Cat Rescue, 2-19-07

I don't know if anyone keeps stats on wild dog attacks, but here are the stats on cats: The following is a partial listing (796) of incidents involving captive big cats since 1990. These incidents have resulted in the killing or deaths of 234 big cats, 69 human deaths, more than 243 human maulings, 214 exotic cat escapes and 363 confiscations.
http://www.bigcatrescue.org/big_cat_news.htm

By Ryn Gargulinski, 2-21-07

Was the child provoking it? Did he poke it in the eye? Why was the kid in the neighbor's yard?

This is awful, giving wolfdogs in general a very bad name. I hope the child is OK and not scarred physically or mentally with a hatred of wolfdogs.

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