



Posted 10:48 PM January 4, 2007

## 5-year-old gets 14 stitches after Saturday dog attack

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January 5, 2007

NOBLEVILLE -- A 5-year-old boy required 14 stitches after being attacked by a dog Saturday.

The boy, whose name was not released by Hamilton County Animal Control, was playing with other children in a field near his grandparents' home on Graylon Place near 146th Street when a neighbor's Labrador-chow mix wandered over from its fenced yard.

Tom Rogers, the Sheriff's Department animal control officer, said the children told him that the 5-year-old leaned or stumbled into the dog, which then bit him at least once in the face. The child was taken to Riverview Hospital, where he was treated and released.

The dog and another animal on the property were signed over to the Humane Society for Hamilton County, which tested the offending animal for rabies. The results were negative, although the dog had not been vaccinated. The animal was later euthanized. The second dog is still being sheltered at the humane society.

The dogs' owner, April Parkhurst, was arrested for harboring a nonimmunized dog resulting in a bite to human, a Class B misdemeanor. Rogers said Parkhurst seemed remorseful about the attack.

He also said too many people are lax about getting their dogs immunized against rabies.

"A girl up north died of rabies last year. It was a bat bite, but it shows that rabies is still out there" Rogers said. "People say there hasn't been a recorded case of rabies in a domestic animal for a long time, but they need to realize that there's a reason for that. I can't see why people ignore it (vaccinating animals), especially when dogs are around kids."

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