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## Bettendorf dog bite

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by Kristy Mergenthal

BETTENDORF, Iowa --

The dog was a rare Belgian malinois, these dogs are typically raised for police training and resemble the look of a German shepherd.

Bettendorf officers were forced to kill the dog after it attacked Phillip Tunncliff yesterday afternoon.

The city says these type of dogs are allowed until deemed vicious.

We discovered the owners have more than just one.

Right now there are 11 of those same dogs in the house next door to where Phillip was bit. Only one belongs to the neighbor the other 10 puppies she is watching for a friend.

This neighbor says she was dog sitting the 45 pound Belgian malinois that Bettendorf police shot and killed when it charged at them Wednesday afternoon after it bit Phillip Tunncliff.

She says she's been watching the dog involved in the attack and its' ten, six and a half week old puppies for a friend over the past two weeks.

Philip Tunncliff was here in his own yard when the neighbor that was watching the dog says it broke out of its cage, through a plateglass window and jumped the fence. It began to attack Philip when he used the skills his mom taught him, fall to the ground and roll into a ball.

"The dog was standing over him barking and he said he had been bit" said Phillip's mom Melita.

Melita says she doesn't blame her neighbor for what happened, the neighbor insisting the dog just snapped. At one point she even called the dog evil knowing it bit someone a year ago.

People in the neighborhood say they have seen the dog in the past jumping at the fence and looked mean.

"Afraid might get out and attack us or the dogs" said Gene Nelson.

"To jump the fence down there that high and come at a young child could be very dangerous here."

The sitter says she knew the dog could jump a fence that's why she kept it locked up but never thought it would break free from the house.



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