



THE MORNING JOURNAL

07/07/2007

German shepherd attacks 7-year-old

MATT SUMAN , Morning Journal Writer

ELYRIA -- A 7-year-old Elyria boy was hospitalized after a neighbor's German shepherd attacked him on July 4, according to an Elyria police report.

The Dewey Avenue boy was swimming at a neighbor's house on July 4 and got cold, so he got out of the pool about 4:30 p.m. As he got out, he slipped off the ladder and fell to the ground, where the dog attacked him as he tried to get up, the report said.

The boy was able to get up, climb the ladder to the pool and get away from the German shepherd. He sustained cuts inside his mouth, bottom lip, right cheek and chin, according to the report. He was treated by a plastic surgeon at EMH Regional Medical Center and received several sutures to close the cuts, police said.

Kristen Davis, EMH spokeswoman, said the boy was treated and released on Wednesday.

Elyria police Lt. Andy Eichenlaub said the dog's owner was not cited because the dog was inside a fenced area in the yard.

"It wasn't like there was a dog at-large," he said.

Police contacted the Elyria City Health Department, a standard practice with any animal bites, and took photos of the boy's injuries. The boy's father reported the incident to police Thursday morning.

There was no reason to contact the county dog warden regarding the incident, Eichenlaub said, and no signs that the dog had any sickness or disease.

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