



## Passers-by intervene when dog attacks girl: German shepherd has no record of rabies vaccination

By Rebecca Correa , Staff writer  
Eagle-Tribune

KINGSTON - A German shepherd with no record of rabies vaccinations bit an 11-year-old girl on the arm yesterday, as she and her sister were walking home on Marshall Road.

Police Chief Donald Briggs said police received a 911 call just before 3 p.m. yesterday "that two young girls were being viciously attacked by a rabid dog."

When police responded to the scene in front of Earl Cockerline's home at 44 Marshall Road (Route 107), the girl had already been bitten on her left arm. Briggs said he did not know the extent of the child's injuries, but she was treated and released from Exeter Hospital.

The chief said the girl and her 15-year-old sister were shaken up when police arrived.

"The 15-year-old was quite scared over the incident; however, she was not injured," he said. "They were both petrified and crying when we got there."

Briggs declined to release the names of the children.

Officials said Cockerline, who owns the dog, was cooperative when they got to the scene. Cockerline could not be reached for comment yesterday.

Frederick Ramsey of Raymond was one of two motorists who stopped to help the girls. He said Buddy, the German shepherd, was foaming at the mouth.

"I was standing face-to-face with the dog and I saw (it foaming at the mouth)," he said. "But I stayed there because I did notice if you backed down, he came at you, so I tried to be aggressive."

He said he was driving north on Route 107 when he saw what he described as a fully grown shepherd weighing about 100 pounds "charging two children."

"As soon as I saw that, I knew they were in trouble," Ramsey said. "The dog barked, the two girls screamed and tried to step back, but the dog grabbed the little girl."

Ramsey got in between the dog and the 11-year-old girl.

He helped her as another motorist helped her sister. The older girl had run across the street, but the dog followed her, Ramsey said. He said the motorist drove his car between the dog and the girl.

Ramsey described the girl's injuries as a large bruise, but didn't think the bite broke her skin.

Briggs said there is no record of Buddy having a license or rabies shots.

"I am extremely concerned over this matter, as this dog was neither licensed or had its current rabies certificate," he said. "It's extremely unfortunate that this young child may have to go through the series of rabies shots, when this could've been prevented."

The German shepherd was taken into custody by police and is being quarantined at the town pound for 10 days. After that, Buddy will be sent to a veterinarian for a health certificate, or be put down.

Briggs said police will continue their investigation against Cockerline, but no charges have been brought.

Cockerline could face fines for having an unlicensed dog, a dog with no rabies shot, a dog at large, and a vicious attack by an animal.

Ramsey said he considers himself lucky that he didn't get bitten by the dog, and might not react the same way again.

"I'll tell you, I was worried," he said. "I can't believe I got in front of him. But it was two little girls, how could you not?"

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