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» News

» Weighing In

» Legislative Session

BACK

Weather

Eye on KELOLAND

Healthbeat

Sports

World/U.S. News

FEATURES

NetCast

Closetline

Calendar

Forums

uShare Photo Gallery

uShare Video Archive

Innertube

KELOLAND Blogs

Hemmingsen Weighs In

Lund At Large

Video Archive

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Programming

Our People

Our History

Contact Us

SERVICES

Desktop

Employment

Classifieds

AutoMall

1/2 Off KELOLAND

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ONLINE OPINION POLL

**Online Opinion is your chance to tell Keloland what you think.**

Remember - our on-air polls are scientific. Online Opinion is not. It's simply an easy way to speak your mind.

As of today, **570** questions have been posted and **1,058,037** votes have been cast. [Click Here to view the Online Opinion archives.](#)

Dog Bite Victim May Need Rabies Shots - 07/23/2007 9:15 PM

VIDEO

07/23/2007

**Dog Bite Victim May Need Rabies Shots**

A 13-year-old boy and his family hope the owner of a dog that bit him will come forward. The search for that dog is one of two underway in Sioux Falls right now.

Just after 12 a.m. Monday morning, a pit bull bit a woman on the hand on Minnesota Avenue. And it was last week that the teenager riding his bike was bit by a German Shepherd type dog.

There are usually about 250 bite reports per year in Sioux Falls. Just six months into 2007, and police have already responded to 200 reports. Because the dogs and their owners aren't found in all cases, the victims have to have a series of rabies shots because nobody knows the animal's history.

And that's what will happen to a 13-year-old Sioux Falls boy if the owner of the German Shepherd that bit him doesn't come forward in the next few days.

As 13-year-old Nick Deutscher rides through Lions Centennial Park tonight, the scars from his last bike ride in this same park can still be seen.

Victim's mother Maureen Deutscher says, "He realizes he may have to undergo the rabies series here in the next few days."

Deutscher and his friends were riding down this bike trail last Wednesday night when a German Shepherd without a leash lunged at him and bit his ankle.

Deutscher says, "The dog that bit him had something around it's nose I believe, so what it did is just pull a chunk out of the side of his ankle, it wasn't able to get in his bone or tendons."

While the dog's bite didn't go deep, Deutscher now faces a series of nine shots for rabies over the next few weeks because the animal's owners haven't been found.

Deutscher says, "As a parent when there's that even that slim chance that your child could have something like a rabies disease you worry."

Deutscher's mom, Maureen, says they have to decide in the next few days whether the teenager will get the rabies shots, but they hope it won't come to that.

Deutscher says, "We're just so hopeful the owners would come forward and that we could just resolve this without any conflict and we can all go on our ways unfortunate things happen and we understand that and our concern is for Nick, we just want the best for him."

Animal Control says charges are not usually filed in animal bite cases, but it needs to know the dog's history to determine if the victim has to get the rabies shots.

In this case, police are looking for a white man in his 30's with an average build, short hair, and a black beard. He was with a white female and their two German Shepherd-type dogs, one was brown and white, and one was gray and white.



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[Ben Dunsmoor](#)

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