



Boy 'scarred for life' in dog attack

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by Katie Bodinger, South Wales Echo

A YOUNG boy has been left scarred for life after being bitten on the bottom by a dog.

Ryan Coles, 10, was mauled by the animal while he was on his way with his mum to collect his brother Daniel, six, from a Beavers meeting.

The dog sank its teeth into his right buttock, into the muscle and left two deep gouges.

Doctors have told mum Tracy he will be scarred for life.

"I couldn't believe it was happening," said Tracy, 34, of Cowbridge Road West, Cardiff.

The attack happened on Cowbridge Road West, Ely, yards from the Scout hall, where children were waiting to be picked up.

"Ryan ran to the gate of the Scout hall and climbed it to try and get away. But the dog just got hold of him with his teeth. I was screaming and eventually it ran away."

The St Francis Primary School pupil, said: "It's still stinging. When I saw the dog I just ran because I knew something bad was going to happen. I tried to crawl up the fence but it just grabbed me."

He added: "I'm glad it was me it happened to and not my younger brother."

Tracy said her son is taking two types of medication for the pain. Because of the awkward place where the wound is, Ryan was only given one stitch, for fear it might become infected and faces weeks of discomfort.

Ryan's dad and Tracy's ex-partner Robert Coles rushed to be with his son as soon as he heard.

The 36-year-old, who works at Cardiff Dogs Home, in Penarth Road, Grangetown, has coincidentally been on a training course this week about aggressive dogs. He said he believed the dog was a bull mastiff-type cross.

A spokeswoman for South Wales Police confirmed they had attended the incident and said the owner had been reported under the Dangerous Dogs Act.

"A court will decide whether or not the dog is destroyed," she said.

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