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UPDATE: Dog responsible for attack found

UPDATE: The dog responsible for an attack on a local family and their dog has been found.

The family now hopes something can be done to prevent the canine from hurting other people and animals.

"I wasn't going to, you know, let them get away," said Christine Hyatt, the dog attack victim.

Hyatt and her dachshund Maddie were attacked by a dog on a trip to the dog park on Tuesday.

Thursday, Hyatt and her daughter, Kathy, spotted the owner of the dog while driving. They then learned that the Akita mix has "current" vaccinations.

"That was a relief. I tell you, that was a relief. I wasn't looking forward to getting rabies shots," explained Hyatt.

Animal control officials said the responsible dog is named Kita and is now confined to its owner's home on Curtis Tignor Road for the next 10 days.

They also said that because the attack occurred in the off-leash area of Fido Field, Kita's owner, James Coleman, faces no citations for now.

Animal control may lobby to get Maddie's attacker designated as "dangerous," forcing Coleman to keep Kita on a leash and muzzled.

Christine Hyatt thinks that is the right step.

"It was a very vicious attack. He wouldn't let go of our dog. We had to fight him for our dog. He was going to kill him," said Hyatt.

Newport News park officials said that both Coleman and the Hyatt family violated park rules by being in the dog park when neither is a registered user.

Local dog and family attacked at dog park

A trip to the dog park nearly cost a local dog her life.

A family and their dog were attacked Tuesday at "Fido Field Dog Park" off Menchville Road in Newport News.

Maddy is a two-year-old long-haired Minature Dachshund. Her owner, Christine Hyatt, said Maddy's short for Madeline.

"By the time we turned around, the dog already had my dog, the neck in his mouth," said Hyatt.

"The little dog was bleeding and we didn't know if he was going to live or not," Hyatt explained.

That dog not only bit Maddy; it also bit Hyatt.

Hyatt's left arm was in a sling and her left middle finger was heavily bandaged after a trip to a plastic surgeon.

The fact that the dog even had the chance to attack Hyatt and Maddy, goes against park rules.

These rules state: The owner should immediately leash and remove a problem dog. The owner will have voice control of their dogs at all times. The owner is responsible and liable for their dogs behavior.

After the attack, Hyatt said the dog and its owner disappeared.

Maddy has a tube in her neck and orange bandages wrapped around most of her tiny body as a result of the attack.

Hyatt believes that the dog that attacked was an Akita.

If animal control can not find the dog that attacked Hyatt and her dog, Hyatt will have to undergo treatment for rabies.

The treatment is a long process. It consists of six shots over a 28-day period.



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