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## Woman: I was evicted because dog bit my daughter

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By Stephen Elliott, [selliott@qconline.com](mailto:selliott@qconline.com)

EAST MOLINE -- An East Moline mother claims her family is being evicted from their apartment because her daughter was bitten by a dog.

Allura Mourning, 7, was bitten on her lower lip Saturday evening by a blue heeler at LDE Apartments, formerly known as the Diana Court Apartments, at 4000 Archer Drive.

Her mother, Shonda Mourning, said Allura may need plastic surgery on her mouth because of the dog bite. She claims the eviction notice the family received Tuesday is due to the property owner's fear of litigation over the incident.

The apartment managers, Richard and Lesa Ernst, contend the eviction is due to a number of ongoing problems with the family.

"There have been nothing but problems ever since she got here with her kids," Ms. Ernst said. "She (Ms. Mourning) is in the wrong. She doesn't supervise her children. There have been so many complaints. This is the last straw."

Ms. Mourning is taking her case to Prairie State Legal Service Inc. She said they are reviewing the eviction and the injury to Allura.

Patty Roush, East Moline community service officer, said the dog, named Jasmine, is under quarantine at the Rock Island County Animal Care and Control. After 10 days, she will be released to her owner, Paul Duyvejonck.

Officer Roush said the dog bite is still under investigation. She doesn't know if any tickets will be issued to Mr. Duyvejonck.

Officer Roush said the dog was chained up when Allura was bitten.

Children in the area have teased the dog, she said. "A dog can only take so much when it is teased."



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**Photo: Todd Mizener**

Allura Mourning, 7, of East Moline, was bitten in the mouth on March 17 by a neighbor's dog. Her mother, Shonda Mourning, left, believes that her family is being evicted from their apartment because of possible liability issues related to the dog bite. Ms. Mourning, who is on permanent disability, lives with her five children in the LDE apartment complex.

Officer Roush said a witness told her Allura was feeding Jasmine and kicked at her. Ms. Mourning said that's simply not true.

"I know Allura and the neighbor's daughter were petting it," Ms. Mourning said. "They had petted the dog before and the dog was nice.

"If the dog is getting bullied and teased (by other children), then bring it in. Why is it getting aggressively worse? The dog is left out a lot of the time," she said. "I try to roll with the punches, but at the end of the day, we're still getting treated very badly."

Ms. Mourning said after being bitten, her daughter came running to her, screaming. She took Allura immediately to Genesis Medical Center's Illini Campus in Silvis for treatment, she said.

Mr. Duyvejonck, who lives an apartment down from Ms. Mourning, said Thursday that he wasn't home when Allura was bitten, but his girlfriend was. She told him a child kicked at the dog, but she wasn't sure which one did so.

He said kids come over all the time to pet Jasmine, and that she's never bitten anyone before. He doesn't believe the dog is violent.

"Usually, all she does is jump," he said.

Mr. Duyvejonck said once Jasmine is released from quarantine, he'll likely take her to his parents' home in the country for a few weeks before bringing her back to his apartment.