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Girl saves pal from dog attack

By **BOB HOLLIDAY, SUN MEDIA**

Marissa Eveleigh may only be 12 years old, but she's making a habit of saving friends from severe injury and even death.

When her friend, Nathan Campbell, 12, was attacked by a neighbour's dog Wednesday, the Grade 6 student at Principal Sparling School didn't panic -- she calmly picked up a big stick and smacked the animal.

"He's my friend and I just tried to protect him," said Eveleigh. "I picked up a big stick and hit the dog. I told Nathan to stand behind me. I didn't want him to get bit again."

'STARTED TO RUN'

Campbell was attacked, knocked to the ground and bitten on his upper arm by the dog shortly after 6 p.m. Wednesday as he and Eveleigh walked along a Burnell Street lane.

"We saw it jump the fence and we started to run," said Campbell. "It jumped me from behind and knocked me to the ground and bit me on the arm."

The dog ran away after it was struck, said the youngster, who wasn't sure of the dog's breed and only described it as being large.

Her daughter's quick action didn't surprise mother Lisom Tam-Eveleigh.

"She will act to protect her friends. When she was six, she saved a five-year-old friend who'd fallen through the ice at Sandy Bay, Sask.," Tam-Eveleigh said.

An ugly bruise surrounds three punctures on Campbell's arm, one of which was too deep to stitch.

"It only hurts when I do something with my arm," said Campbell, who also suffered scratches and swelling when his face hit the pavement.

Mary Linski, Campbell's grandmother, said she rushed to see her grandson after being told he had been bitten.

"It's such a frightening thing. I didn't know what to expect," said Linski. "He could have been bitten on the face."

Linski said she attempted to contact the dog owner on Wednesday but a woman at the house refused to answer the front door.

"She looked through the window and turned away," said Linski.

The dog has not been seized, but the incident is being investigated by Winnipeg Animal Services, said spokesman Tim Dack.

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