

Daily Herald

Big Picture . Local Focus

Family sues over dog attack

By Charles Keeshan

ckeeshan@dailyherald.com

Posted Thursday, May 24, 2007

The family of a 4-year-old Crystal Lake boy attacked earlier this month by a neighbor's Great Dane has sued the dog's owners, claiming they failed to address its "vicious propensities."

The lawsuit, filed this week in McHenry County court, seeks a minimum \$50,000 in damages for Matthew Voorhees for what it says are severe and permanent injuries he suffered in the May 10 incident.

"The dog basically treated him as though he was a chew toy," family attorney Ed Plaza said Wednesday. "He sustained serious, serious injuries."

Those injuries, Plaza said, include lacerations of the boy's torso and face that required emergency surgery.

The lawsuit also seeks damages for the boy's father, Scott Voorhees, who it claims also was bitten while trying to separate the dog from his son.

The dog's owners, listed in court documents as Jennifer and Jaquet Pashka, could not be reached for comment Wednesday.

The McHenry County Animal Control department is investigating the incident to determine whether the dog should be declared vicious or its owners cited, spokeswoman Debra Quackenbush said.

The attack occurred when the boy walked onto the Pashka's front yard to retrieve a baseball. The dog was on a runner at the time, said Plaza, who also is the Lake in the Hills' mayor.

dailyherald.com