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12-year-old girl attacked by a dog



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Updated: Nov 15, 2007 6:56pm

Another Central Texas child has been attacked and bitten by a dog, and now the girl is wondering when she'll be able to play her saxophone again.

12-year-old Veronica Menchaca was spending an average evening at home Wednesday when a beagle that neighbors said usually roamed the area came into her yard.

"She was outside playing in the back yard and the dog came out there," parent Irene Menchaca said.

Veronica followed the dog out of her back yard into the driveway. Her family said she bent down to touch it, and that's when it attacked her.

"She just came in here screaming and crying. And it was awful," her mother added.

Veronica's parents said the dog bit a hole in her top lip. They rushed her to Scott and White where she had to have emergency plastic surgery.

"Putting her to sleep, the shots, the screaming, the way she was shaking, crying, it's awful. It was really awful to see that," Irene said.

The dog was loose, which is a direct violation of a Temple city ordinance that states dogs must be contained.

"The dog was actually about three blocks away from his home when the bite occurred, so the dog was definitely running loose," Animal Control Officer Dustin Connell said.

Now, the dog owners may be facing some hefty fines. "[The charges will be] dog at large [and] no current rabies.

You know, that could be a maximum of \$4,000. I've never seen that levied, but who knows," Connell added.

The unexpected bite left the seventh grade cheerleader, athlete and musician scarred, and her mother with a warning for other parents.

"You always think it's a Pitbull or Rottweiler. It doesn't matter what kind of dog it is, you never know when this will happen to your kid," Irene said.

Doctors were able to save Veronica's lip, but the 7th grader may have to have more surgery.

The dog is currently being quarantined at a veterinarian's office for ten days to see if it shows any signs of rabies.

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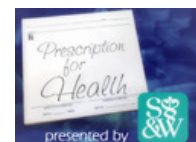
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