



Boy, 5, is scarred for life in dog attack

A FIVE-YEAR-OLD boy has been left scarred for life after a horrific dog attack.

And his family were devastated today when a court refused to order the neighbour's dog to be destroyed, and fined its owner £500. The boy's grandfather had witnessed the attack from a window in his house.

Paisley Sheriff Court was today told the German hunting dog struck as the boy played with a friend in his back garden in Barrhead.

The two-year-old Weimaraner bitch got in through a hole in the fence and went straight for the boy.

It jumped up on the child, knocking him to the ground, then pinned him down and savaged his face - leaving a torn flap of skin that needed 23 stitches.

The boy was rushed to Paisley's Royal Alexandra Hospital, but despite plastic surgery, he'll be left with a three-inch scar on his face, which will never disappear.

The dog's owner, Keith Melvin, 38, was fined after he admitted allowing his pet to enter private property in Commore Avenue, and bite the child on his cheek.

The boy's family left the court distraught, however, after Sheriff John McCormick refrained from putting a destruction order in place.

An expert report commissioned by defence agent Richard Freeman, had revealed that the animal had never given any previous cause for concern and, to the contrary, had been "playful and sociable".

The animal's attack, it was stressed, had been "completely uncharacteristic".

The court heard that in view of what had happened, Melvin was to erect a six-foot boundary fence, and when taking his pet out for walks, would use a lead which went over the snout.

2:31pm Monday 19th November 2007

[Back](#)