

Fine for schoolboy bite dog owner

A dog owner has been fined £500 after his pet Weimeraner bit a five-year-old boy on the face.

The child needed 23 stitches and will be scarred for life after the two-year-old bitch attacked him in his garden in Barrhead, East Renfrewshire.

At Paisley Sheriff Court, Keith Melvin, 38, admitted allowing his pet to enter private property and to bite the boy.

Sheriff John McCormick said he had decided against having the dog humanely destroyed and fined Melvin £500.

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

The attack, it was said, had been completely uncharacteristic.

Depute fiscal Frank Clarke said the attack happened in front of the child's grandfather.

"It put its paws on his body, knocking him down and he ended up on his back," he said.

The boy's grandfather saw the dog "was at his grandson's face".

"It still had its teeth in him at that point," Mr Clarke said.

The victim has been left with a three inch scar.

Mr Clarke the Crown would not be moving for a destruction order to be put in place.

Sheriff McCormick said he accepted that Melvin had previously taken steps to keep the dog under control, was a first offender and that the incident had been out of character.

Story from BBC NEWS:

http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/uk_news/scotland/glasgow_and_west/7102009.stm

Published: 2007/11/19 14:35:32 GMT

© BBC MMVII