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Stray Dog Attacks Girl, 3

Victim Suffers Puncture Wounds On Mouth, Nose

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SAN ANTONIO -- A 3-year-old girl was recovering Wednesday from wounds she suffered in a stray dog attack on the city's Northwest Side.

Kiera Roberson was playing in the front yard of her neighbor's home on Monday evening when a 40-pound bull terrier mix, which was underneath a car, pounced on the girl and bit her on the face, her parents said.

Kiera suffered some puncture wounds to her nose and mouth and is on antibiotics and a special ointment. Her doctor is hopeful there will be little or no scarring.

Joe Roberson, the girl's father, told KSAT 12 News that he called Animal Care Services about 10 a.m. Monday to pick up the stray dog.

But the dog was never picked up because since Monday was Veterans Day, a federal holiday, there were only two Animal Care Services drivers on call and a stray dog was not a high priority.

"Had they told us the animal was vicious or dangerous, that they were in fear of their life, certainly that would have warranted an immediate response," said Lisa Norwood of Animal Care Services.

The dog was picked up after the incident, but not before it was beaten by a neighbor.

Norwood said that the dog suffered a gash across its back, which may warrant animal cruelty charges.

"It's one thing to obviously protect your child, who is being attacked by an animal," Norwood said. "But to injure the animal after the fact, after the animal has already been contained, that's something different."

Roberson said that the idea of filing animal cruelty charges was "ludicrous."

"The dog was attacking my daughter," he said. "Who knows what the dog could have done if they weren't there. She might not be here with us right now."

The neighbor who beat the dog told KSAT 12 News that he beat the dog to get it off Kiera.

A decision has not been made whether to euthanize the dog.

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