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Schoolboy mauled in dog attack

By Dawn Karjohn

A 10-year-old boy was left with horrific facial wounds after being viciously attacked by a neighbour's dog.

Aaron Cooper, of Maple Drive, Bamber Bridge in Lancashire, needed 25 stitches following the mauling which happened in a neighbour's garden as he played on a trampoline the dog uses as a bed.

The Japanese Akita, named Blade, pinned him down and savaged his face and neck, leaving him with 10 puncture wounds.

The Walton-le-Dale Primary School pupil had been playing in the garden with the dog owner's son Liam, 10.

Aaron's mother Kaye, 36, a community carer, is now calling for the dog to be put down. She said: "Aaron could have lost an eye. It needs to be put down because if it's done it once, it will do it again."

The day after the attack, police went to collect the 20-month-old dog, but his owner Telena Ronald, 30, refused to hand him over on the advice of her solicitor.

Legally, the animal cannot be seized by police because the attack took place in a private garden and no criminal offence had been committed because the dog was not in a public place.

The victim's family will now have to file a civil complaint under the Dogs Act 1871 and persuade a magistrate to order the dog's destruction.

Miss Ronald, a mother-of-three, was indoors when the attack happened and believes the animal was provoked.

She said: "Blade's not a vicious dog, he's cuddly and great with kids, otherwise I wouldn't have him."

A police spokesman said: "This incident took place on private land and as such the police have no powers to seize the dog."

Aaron's sister, Lucy, 18, has started a petition to have the dog destroyed and has already collected 52 names.



Schoolboy Aaron Cooper spent three days in hospital



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