



## Dog mauls girl at church

— FAIRVIEW — Paramedics airlifted a Baileyton child to the hospital Sunday after a large dog seriously injured her at a church playground.

“The injuries were very severe and were considered life threatening,” said Sheriff Tyler Roden.

Cullman County Sheriff’s reports indicate the 4-year-old child, whose name was not released, was attacked at approximately 4:20 p.m. at Fairview Baptist Church. The dog involved in the attack was a bullmastiff that weighed between 120 and 125 pounds.

Roden said approximately 10 children were at the playground when the dog wandered into the area. The dog first approached and bit a 10-year-old girl, who Roden said was the 4-year-old’s sister.

“It didn’t bite very hard,” Roden said. “It caused some bruising but did not break the skin.”

After the initial dog bite, the animal then attacked the 4-year-old, who was playing on a swing set.

“It pulled the child off the swing and begins to pull her away, severely injuring the 4-year-old child,” Roden said.

Reports state that after several women at the church discovered what was going on, they tried to free the child by kicking the dog and hitting it with a chain from the swing set.

“The dog was scared away from the child and 911 was called,” Roden said.

Roden said Fairview Rapid Responders and Cullman County Animal Control as well as other emergency personnel answered the call. The child was transported to Cullman Regional Medical Center before she was airlifted to Huntsville.

The dog was located nearby at the owner’s home and was placed in the back seat of a sheriff’s office K-9 patrol car before it was transported to Northside Veterinarian Hospital.

“The dog was euthanized this morning (Monday) and taken to Birmingham for testing,” Roden said.

No charges against the dog owner have been filed.

“We are consulting with the DA’s office to determine what sort of charges should be filed,” Roden said.

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