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Cheshunt Toddler Savaged By Dog

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Swelling and a cut just half-an-inch beneath Charlotte's right eye

A TODDLER from Cheshunt was mauled by a dog at a barbecue on Sunday afternoon, and police say they can do nothing about it.

Horrified dad Brett Collins, of Cunningham Court, spoke of the moment he realised his 20-month-old daughter Charlotte had been bitten by a dog. The girl suffered puncture wounds to her neck and one bite wound was just half an inch away from her right eye.

At around 3pm other children were playing with the cross-breed. They had attended the barbecue in another part Cheshunt, before her dog turned on the toddler.

Mr Collins told the Herald: "The dog was playing with a ball with the older kids earlier. Charlotte walked over to the dog and put her arms around it, when it turned its head towards her and bit her face. Charlotte screamed as she landed on her bum. I ran over to her from where I was sitting, about 15 feet away, at a table." He added: "The local police have said that because the dog was in a private garden with the owner's permission, they can only request that the dog is put down. I think that this is wrong."

After she had been savaged by the animal Charlotte's frantic parents rushed the bleeding toddler to Chase Farm hospital's accident and emergency department. Mr Collins also described how worried he was when he looked at the wound and "saw white" which he suspected were "ligaments".

A spokesman for Herts Police said: "This must have been a very distressing incident for the young girl, and her family. After investigating the circumstances of this incident, it was found that because the dog was allowed onto the property, and was accompanied by its owner, no crime has been committed and therefore no further action can be taken by the police.

"The victim's family have been advised that this is a civil matter should they wish to take further action.



The toddler's bloodstained dress after the dog attack

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