

Havelock woman honored for saving child from dog

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HAVELOCK - A woman who acted quickly to help a 6-year girl old being attacked by a dog has been recognized by Havelock's mayor for heroism.

Chelsea Cadman, a Marine wife and resident of Slocum Village, came to the aid of Camren Thomas on Aug. 14 when a boxer the child's family had just adopted attacked her.

Camren's mother, Terri Anson, said, "My daughter was unloading groceries and walked in the house and the dog jumped on her."

Cadman, a neighbor, "witnessed the whole event and came to our rescue," Anson said.

Cadman and Anson grabbed the dog's collar and pulled it off of Camren. "That was what did most of the damage. He had his teeth locked into her head," Anson said.

"She helped me by calling 911 and ran in her house to get a towel for my daughter's head. She kept my daughter and myself calm and continued to help while I tried to stop my daughter from bleeding and passing out."

Anson said the dog had torn into Camren's head, resulting in injuries that required more than 40 stitches and staples beginning just over her ear above the right temple.

"I looked over and could see her skull; I was hysterical and she calmed me down and basically took over," Anson said. "Once the ambulance came, Mrs. Cadman called my husband, who was at work, and waited there for him to see if he needed anything. She also watched my 2-year-old son so my husband could leave for the hospital."

"Once we got to the hospital, we found out that if Mrs. Cadman and myself didn't act as fast as we did my daughter would not have lived," Anson said. "I owe my daughter's life to Mrs. Cadman for her quick thinking and thoughtfulness."

Cadman was recognized in a proclamation by Mayor Jimmy Sanders and given a standing ovation by those attending a recent Havelock Board of Commissioners meeting.

Sanders' proclamation summarized the "courageous actions of Ms. Cadman" and applauded the "quick thinking and thoughtful assistance" that "provided comfort to a family and their child during a tragic event."

Sanders urged "all citizens of Havelock to join me in recognizing the heroic efforts of this outstanding woman and neighbor."

Anson said her daughter's stitches came out nine days after the attack and she is fine, back in her first-grade class at Graham A. Barden Elementary School.

The dog, a purebred boxer about 2½ years old, was picked up by Havelock Animal Control and after 10 days was euthanized, Anson said. Because of the attack, the family was placed on no pet restriction in base housing and the Anson's other dog also had to be taken away.