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Lexington infant dies after dog bite

6-WEEK-OLD WAS ASLEEP IN BEDROOM; ATTACK RARE FOR SMALL TERRIER BREED

By Shawntaye Hopkins

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A Lexington infant died Friday after he was attacked by one of the family's dogs, police said.

Witnesses told police a 6-week-old baby, later identified as Justin Mozer, was sleeping in a bedroom about 3:40 p.m. when a Jack Russell terrier attacked him, Lexington police Lt. John Gensheimer said.

The family that lives at 1910 Seven Pines Drive, near Versailles Road and Alexandria Drive, also owns a pit bull, witnesses said.

It was reported to police that the mother was in another room when the baby was attacked.

Gensheimer did not know whether the baby was sleeping in a crib.

Justin was taken to University of Kentucky Hospital, where he died. The cause of death was not released Friday; an autopsy will be performed, the Fayette County Coroner's Office said.

The two dogs were taken by Fayette County Animal Control at the owner's request.

No charges were pending Friday, Gensheimer said.

According to analysis, serious attacks by Jack Russell terriers, a breed of small dogs, are rare. A study of dog attacks from 1982 to 2006 in the United States and Canada by the editor of the newsletter Animal Peopleshowed only two attacks by Jack Russells. One of those led to a death, but only because the dog-bite wound became infected.

A neighbor who has lived on Seven Pines Drive for about four months said she has seen the pit bull and Jack Russell terrier, but she has never known them to cause any major problems in the neighborhood.

"It's a shame that the baby died," said neighbor Shelia Blakely. "These people's lives will never be the same."