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Dog Bites Young Girl



7/11/08 Sisters

by Ariel Wesler

Nine year-old Savannah Ryan of sisters will never forget what happened to her this week at her friend's house.

"We walked in the door, one step in the door and the dog walked up and bit me in the face," Savannah explained.

The dog was a three year old boxer. Savannah says it all happened so quickly. She used a washcloth to

keep pressure on the wound underneath her eye.

"It hurt, something like a knife was stabbed," she said.

Savannah has since undergone plastic surgery and has seventeen stitches. Her mom, Colleen, says none of her four kids ages four to nine have ever gone through a serious injury.

"I thought it was a scratch. I was like, oh but she's ok," her mom said. "No, she's bleeding really bad. Y'know, you freak out. I had the three kids. I had to get them in the van, get over there, and i took her to the doctor's."

The law requires all dogs who bite anyone to be quarantined for ten days, but this one apparently escaped. Strangely enough, police say the dog was then hit by a car and killed a couple days later.

"He dragged himself back home and then they were taking him to the vet and he died on the way," Colleen said.

The dog's body was later dug up to check for rabies. Since the dog was buried, Savannah's mom says she's a little nervous. Tests by the health department could not guarantee the dog did not have rabies, but said the percentage was low enough not to be concerned.

"I'm gonna be a little obsessed with the whole dog and rabies thing," Colleen said.

She's just glad it wasn't any worse and so is Savannah.

"It doesn't hurt anymore at all," Savannah said, "and i just do the same thing everyday, but i can't get my face wet."

She says the incident hasn't scared her away from dogs. In fact, she has one of her own. She's still enjoying her summer and hopes to remain friends with the other family. She gets her stitches out on Monday.

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