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By: Eyewitness News 4

Dog seriously injures shelter volunteer



Whiskey will be tested for disease after he is euthanized

A vicious dog attack sent a volunteer at a west side Albuquerque animal shelter to the hospital Saturday.

The woman is recovering at UNM Hospital and the 3-year-old Chow mix that bit her will probably be euthanized, the shelter says.

The dog, named Whiskey, showed no signs of aggression before Saturday, according to animal handlers. But it had been placed in the shelter by its previous owners because it was not getting along with other dogs.

According to shelter officials, the dog was taken for a walk by the volunteer Saturday. They say the woman was following proper procedure walking Whiskey when the dog turned on her.

"He lunged at her arm and started biting her--apparently bit her from the shoulder to the wrist and may have also bitten her along parts of her torso," shelter spokesperson Rick DeReyes said.

The volunteer, who had handled Whiskey in the past with out incident, was rushed to the hospital. DeReyes said the woman lost a lot of blood, but her injuries are non-life-threatening.

DeReyes says volunteers are trained to handle the animals but there was no way to prepare for what happened Saturday.

"From all indications, she was following proper procedure which you would normally do to make sure the dog got exercise, and he just snapped," DeReyes said.

The victim will recover from her wounds, but the shelter says Whiskey will probably be put down.

"Once the dog calms down, he will be bathed and will likely be euthanized on Monday because a dog like that can no longer be put back into society," DeReyes said.

Whiskey was scheduled to be adopted in a week and a half, according to the shelter's website.