



Family dog bites toddler

Girl stitched up after jumping on sleeping pet

Jason van Rassel and Sherri Zickefoose

Calgary Herald

Friday, February 29, 2008

A two-year-old girl needed 16 stitches to her right ear and cheek after one of the family dogs bit her Thursday morning.

By Thursday evening, the girl was at home and playing in the living room, a gauze bandage on the right side of her face the only lasting sign of what had occurred.

The girl's mother called 911 to the home on Dovercliffe Way S.E. shortly after 11:30 a.m.

The woman, who asked not to be named, said she was in the bathroom when her daughter jumped on one of the household's two mastiff-cross dogs as they slept.

"I could see the one gash on her face so I called the ambulance right away," said the mother.

Paramedics arrived quickly, while the woman was still on the phone with 911, she said.

"I just tried to keep pressure on (the wounds)," she said.

City animal bylaw officers say nothing will happen until they interview the girl's parents this week.

"This does happen from time to time when it's a household pet. The dog is not at large and not a danger to the public," said animal bylaw services manager Bill Bruce.

"We'll be talking to the parents and investigating like we would any dog bite."

Last year, bylaw officers investigated 134 reports of dog bites.

"In a city of a million people with over 105,000 dogs, that's not too many."

Investigators will look at the history of the family, what the circumstances were and if the bite was out-of-character for the dog.

The woman said the two dogs are rarely in the house and come indoors only to sleep.

If charges are laid, fines are between \$360 to \$1,500.

jvanrassel@theherald.canwest.com

szickefoose@theherald.canwest.com

© The Calgary Herald 2008

CLOSE WINDOW

Copyright © 2008 CanWest Interactive, a division of [CanWest MediaWorks Publications, Inc.](#) All rights reserved.
CanWest Interactive, a division of [CanWest MediaWorks Publications, Inc.](#) All rights reserved.