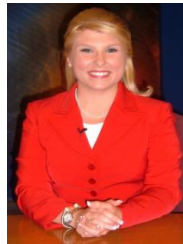
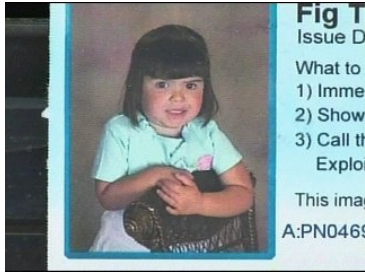


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## East Alabama Local Child Recovering From Severe Dog Bite

Posted: April 10, 2008 11:35 AM EDT



**By  
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May 29, 2008

LEE COUNTY, Ala. (WTVM) - It was a Memorial Day barbecue that went horribly wrong. One second three-year-old Jennifer Leamer was playing with her family friend's Doberman pincher and the next, she was being rushed to the East Alabama Medical Center.

Tabatha Leamer says her daughter was at a get-together and playing with a friends dog when all of a sudden it bit the left side of her head.

"She was coming out the door and the dog came up beside her and she put her arm around it and it turned around and bit the top of her head. It just turned on her. We don't know what happened," Leamer said.

Jennifer was rushed to the East Alabama Medical Center and underwent a three-and-a-half hour surgery Monday.

Her parents say she now has over two hundred stitches in her head and may have some nerve damage over her left eye.

They say she has been around the dog multiple times without being injured.

The owner of the dog tells News Leader 9 the dog is a good family dog who has never been vicious before.

Officials with the Lee County Humane Society say that even if a child is familiar with a pet, adults should take precautions and look out for certain warning signs like lowered ears or a tail between the legs and the obvious growling.

"Animals react in different ways and even the slightest sudden movement can trigger sudden behavior that may not be in the best interest of the child," said Heather Meadows, Executive Director of the Lee County Humane Society.

And as for Jennifer?

"She's probably going to have a fear of dogs for a while which is understandable. I would too. I just thank God that she's alright and pray that she gets over it and doesn't remember it," said her mother.

Jennifer's parents say she will be re-evaluated by her doctors tomorrow to determine whether or not a second skin-grafting surgery is needed to further treat her injuries.

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The Doberman pincher is being quarantined at the Lanett Animal Clinic.

The owner of the dog tells News Leader 9 they intend on putting the animal down.



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