

North Shore Times

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Labrador attacks girl, 10

Katrina Adamski

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A DANGEROUS dog has been put down after it attacked a 10-year-old girl, breaking her arm, as she walked with her father in Killara last week.

The labrador's owner had previously been fined \$550 for a minor attack by the dog and had agreed to behavioural training for it which, Ku-ring-gai Council said, did not happen.

The latest incident occurred as new figures reveal there have been more than 60 dog attacks in Ku-ring-gai in the past year.

The 10-year-old was walking with her father in Saijala Rd, Killara, when she was attacked by the black male labrador.

The dog lunged for the girl's head and neck and bit into her raised arm after she fell. In the fall and under the weight of the dog, she broke her arm.

Ku-ring-gai Mayor Nick Ebbeck said the council had no option but to issue a dangerous dog order.

The owner surrendered the dog to the Animal Welfare League pound and it has been put down.

Council officers are still investigating the incident and whether the dog's owner could be prosecuted.

"Apart from having an arm in plaster, the girl is doing well and hopefully will suffer no more than nasty memories from this dangerous experience," Cr Ebbeck said. "Fortunately, her father was present at the time of the attack and able to come to her aid.

"I want to warn dog owners yet again to properly supervise their pets in public places.

"We cannot have a situation where public safety is threatened by a small minority of dog owners who don't properly supervise their pets."

The NSW Companion Animals Act requires dogs in off-leash areas to be under effective control of their owners.

This means owners must watch their dogs at all times and be in a position to control them if they are about to attack humans or other animals.

"More than 60 dog attacks in 12 months is simply unacceptable, even if you take into account the fact that Ku-ring-gai has a large dog population," Cr Ebbeck said.

"Like thousands of other residents, I like dogs but we can't have situations where public safety is being threatened.



ARTIST Karen Atkins will be one of 30 artists with their sketch pads and easels at work along the walk from Milsons Point to Lavender Bay this weekend.

"Dog owners should be aware that council rangers regularly patrol Ku-ring-gai's off-leash areas and those caught doing the wrong thing will be fined."

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