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Mom says dog that bit girl at store should die

By Kirk Mitchell
The Denver Post

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The mother of a 5-year-old girl who was severely bitten by a bulldog at a pet store says the dog should be destroyed.

The powerful bulldog ripped open Lauren Sampson's thigh and buttocks as it tried to carry her away inside a PetSmart at 2780 S. Colorado Blvd., said Amy Jewett Sampson, the girl's mother.

"It was amazing, the strength of that dog," Sampson said. "Its jaws had locked up on her. We were playing tug-of-war with my daughter. She was bleeding everywhere."

The girl, who turned 5 on Friday, has healed, but Sampson said she is worried the bulldog could harm or kill another child. "I'm angry that this dog is still alive," she said. "I assumed a dog this vicious would be euthanized. If the dog had attacked her throat, she could have been killed."

After the Oct. 28 attack, the dog was taken to the Denver Municipal Animal Shelter, where it was quarantined for 10 days, shelter Director Doug

Kelley said. The dog was released Friday to its owner.

Owner Amy Powell of Denver was cited on a misdemeanor dog-bite charge and faces a possible \$1,000 fine and one year in jail, Kelley said.

The dog was on a leash and had not bitten anyone previously. A witness said that the girl startled the dog, Kelley said.

"It certainly wasn't a good situation," he said. "But we have to look at all the factors."

Sampson said she, Lauren and another daughter went to the pet shop to buy a collar for their chocolate Labrador. Powell had the bulldog on a long leash, and Sampson said the animal lunged at Lauren.

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