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Athlete bite dog could be put down

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A Doberman which bit a 14-year-old athlete in the thigh in Cambridgeshire could be put down. Magistrates have said they are considering ordering the dog's destruction after hearing how it attacked the girl as she walked near Barrington in August.

Rycharde Scrase-Field, 34, of Birchanger Lane, Bishop's Stortford, Herts, admitted being in ch

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arge of a dangerously out of control dog when he appeared in court in Ely.

"We consider the wound suffered by the young girl was quite severe," said presiding magistrate Bryant Watson. "We will consider the destruction of the dog."

The girl, who cannot be identified for legal reasons, needed hospital treatment and suffered "nightmares" after the attack, prosecutors said.

She was a member of one of Hertfordshire's top swimming clubs and had raced at county level, the court heard.

Magistrates adjourned sentencing until next month.

The Doberman, which has been impounded by police pending the outcome of the case, belongs to Scrase-Field's girlfriend, Kelly Bird, of Mill Lane, Barrington. Scrase-Field was walking it on a lead down a path when it attacked the teenager.

A villager had complained about the Doberman in 2007 after it attacked his dog, the court heard.

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