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German shepherd bites man at Greer's Oktoberfest

By Nan Lundeen
STAFF WRITER

GREER -- A man attending Oktoberfest in Greer's historic downtown Saturday afternoon was bitten by a German shepherd on his cheek, according to a Greer police incident report.

The dog's owner, Andrea Elaine Van Wyk of Lake Cunningham Road, told police the dog bit the man for an unknown reason, and she didn't know whether the dog had had his rabies shot, according to the report.

Lynn Pascazio, director of marketing for the Greater Greer Chamber of Commerce, said that the city may consider an ordinance disallowing dogs at festivals.

"We want to make sure our festivals are safe and family friendly and fun for everyone to enjoy," Pascazio said.

Gary Bang, a retiree and a Virginia resident who was visiting Greer's Oktoberfest for the second year while staying at his place on Lake Hartwell, said in a phone interview that he was reaching into his briefcase when, "It jumped around the corner to nab me."

He said he had five bite marks on his cheek, which he self treated.

He said he saw several dogs at the festival on leashes, and if folks are going to have dogs out in public, "bring a yellow Lab or some good old dog that loves everybody."

Bang said he was glad it didn't happen to a little kid and added, "I'm sure they'll take proper steps to make sure it doesn't happen again."

The dog's owner agreed to quarantine the dog until further notice, the report said. The owner couldn't immediately be reached for comment.

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