

[<<Back](#)

## Dog Bite In Nampa

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Nampa, Idaho -- They're called man's best friend, but what happens when a seemingly lovable family pet attacks a child on more than one occasion?

Charity Knehans is just like any other 3 year old, except now she bares a two-inch scar above her right eye where she was bitten by a neighbor's yellow lab -- a lab that just yesterday was deemed not vicious.

It's been almost three weeks since Charity was bitten by Mader, the neighbor's lab, and although her wounds have healed, her mom, Julie, says she can't sleep through a full night without having nightmares.

"Everybody started screaming one of the owners of the dog was standing really close just within a couple feet and he grabbed the dog and of course I ran and cradled her and ran inside and motioned for my neighbor across the street for help," said Lisa Knehans.

That neighbor was Julie Watson. A family friend who lives directly across the street and says had a clear view of the entire encounter.

"Charity was kneeled down in the grass kind of playing in the alleyway and went she went to stand up latched onto her and then let her go," said Watson.

And although the Nampa Police Department would not comment on this specific case, they did tell us that in order to deem a dog vicious it must attack without being provoked, and there must be a witness when the dog attacks.

"She didn't touch the dog she wasn't looking at the dog. She was just knelt down playing in the dirt and went to stand up," said Watson.

But at an informal hearing Wednesday, it was decided Mader was not vicious and could be returned to it's owners, who also chose not to comment about the case. However, according to both Watson and the Knehans, they admitted the dog was not provoked and had actually bitten another child before.

"A little 13-month-old boy or girl, I'm not sure which, had a ball and was kind of teasing and the dog had latched onto the top of the head," said Watson.

So now the Knehans have five days to appeal the decision or Charity will be forced to return home to see a dog she was initially told would be taken away.

"Cause the doctor said Mader won't come here no more," said Charity.

If a dog is deemed vicious and a family chooses to keep the animal they have to insure it for \$500,000. They must also have at least a 6-foot tall fence with clearly marked signs on the property that the animal is vicious. The dog has to be tattooed and the family has to alert animal control if they ever decide to move.

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