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## Dog owner faces charges

Escaped pet bit mother and child

By **TARINA WHITE, SUN MEDIA**

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**Isabella Cortis and Lucas Logan say a biting incident on Friday night involving their bull mastiffs was a freak accident. They don't want their animals put down. A woman and her son, 2, needed stitches to repair their injuries. (Darren Makowichuk, Sun Media)**

Charges have been laid against the owner of a dog that mauled a woman and her two-year-old son and officers want the animal destroyed.

Wiping away tears, Isabella Cortis said she's horrified about Friday night's attack outside her Beddington Heights home, adding it's the first time her Boxer Pointer-mix, Daisy, has been vicious.

"This is a freak accident -- it's nothing I would ever expect from her," said Cortis, 18.

Added live-in boyfriend Lucas Logan, 25: "I'm so sorry that people got hurt -- it's terrible."

After arriving home about 8:45 p.m Friday night, Cortis and Logan said they recalled locking the side gate to contain Daisy, 2, and their other dogs in the backyard.

But 15 minutes later the dogs were loose and attacking neighbour Cari Caldwell, 34, and her son, Aengus, who had been playing on the front lawn of their Bedford Pl. N.E. home.

Husband Jody Caldwell ran outside the house when he heard his wife screaming and found several dogs attacking her and his son. Using his son's plastic toy shovel, he beat them off his wife, who was holding Aengus.

Both were taken to hospital where Caldwell received 27 stitches in her arm and Aengus needed sutures for a bite wound on his calf.

Jody said his wife was too distraught to speak about the ordeal yesterday.

"She doesn't even want to be at home ... because being here kind of reminds her of everything that happened," he said.

Playing on the front lawn again yesterday, Aengus had "bounced back amazingly."

Bill Bruce, director of animal bylaw services, said Daisy was the only dog that bit the pair and has been taken into custody.

His department has laid several charges against Cortis in connection with the incident, including attack causing severe injury, which could net \$2,350 in fines.

Logan's dog is accused of threatening a person and running at large and he is facing \$500 in fines.

Bruce said they will also recommend Daisy be destroyed, despite having no previous history of violence.

"If we don't deal with this harshly, we'll be dealing with more situations like this," said Bruce.

Jody agreed euthanizing Daisy is the safest option.

"If the dog was vicious enough to attack once, it's going to do it again," he said.

But Cortis said it's an extreme reaction, "especially since she's never had any history of that."

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