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3 dogs kill 4-year-old boy in his yard

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The Associated Press

MORGANZA, La. -- Three dogs killed a 4-year-old boy who was playing in his own yard on Friday, and deputies were still investigating the matter Saturday, a Pointe Coupee Parish sheriff's spokesman said.

The child, Michael Landry, was airlifted Friday to a hospital in New Roads, nine miles away, but died there from his injuries, said Capt. Steve Juge.

He said Saturday that a man acting as caretaker for one or more of the dogs tried to rescue the boy, and was taken to a hospital because his blood pressure spiked. He was not bitten; his name will not be released until the investigation is complete, Juge said.

He said the caretaker was cleaning out the kennel next door, and went into a shed to fill the dogs' food bowls when the animals came into the yard where Michael was playing and his mother gardening nearby, Juge said.

A chain-link fence runs between the two houses but not behind either, Juge said, and barbed-wire fencing ran behind the kennel.

The child's father told deputies that the dogs had never gone into his yard before, Juge said.

He said animal control officers took all three dogs.

Juge said deputies were still investigating the case Saturday, and would turn over their report to the 18th Judicial District Attorney's Office for review.