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## Girl mauled by dog out of ICU, mom says

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*KULPMONT — Amanda Smith, the 9-year-old Kulpmont girl who was mauled by a bullmastiff in the borough late Sunday afternoon, is expected to return home by the end of next week, her parents said Wednesday.*

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KULPMONT — Amanda Smith, the 9-year-old Kulpmont girl who was mauled by a bullmastiff in the borough late Sunday afternoon, is expected to return home by the end of next week, her parents said Wednesday.

"They took her out of the ICU yesterday (Tuesday), which is good news. She's up walking around," her mother, Jennifer Smith, 1039 Chestnut St., said by phone from the Pine Barn Inn on the campus of Geisinger Medical Center, Danville.

Amanda's injuries — including damaged sinuses, a punctured skull, a broken jaw and severe damage to the bridge of her nose — have required more than 10 hours of surgery, including five on Wednesday to repair her jaw. Smith said her daughter is, considering the circumstances, doing fine.

Amanda and another girl, whom her parents said she recently met, were walking the dog that reportedly belongs to the friend's aunt. While the girls were on Maple Street, a black canine appeared, barked, jumped a fence and provoked the bullmastiff. When the girls tried to hold the dog back, it attacked both Amanda and her friend, who is from Coal Township. The other girl's injuries required 32 stitches to her face, Smith said.

After releasing that girl, the dog turned on Amanda.

"She (Amanda) told me that the dog grabbed the back of her neck and started to drag her on the street," Smith said. "It messed up her face."

Amanda had recently moved with her family from Lewisburg. Her first day in the Mount Carmel Area Elementary School was the Friday before the attack, according to elementary school Principal Marry Ann Krakowski.

Her Mount Carmel classmates made get-well cards Monday and proceeds from the school's annual Mother's Day flower fundraiser, which normally benefits the school, will be given to the Smith family.

Sassy Snippers, 601 Chestnut St., Kulpmont, will hold a cut-a-thon and bake sale from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday with proceeds benefitting the family. Those who wish to make appointments can call 373-5699. Walk-ins are welcome and donations will be accepted.

Although there is no official fund established, any cards or donations can be sent to Smith's residence at 1039 Chestnut St., Kulpmont.

"We came to the hospital with no money, no nothing," said William Urbanavage, Amanda's stepfather. "It's just a horrible situation."

The dog that attacked Amanda is being held at Sunbury Animal Hospital for 10 days following the Sunday incident, where it is being checked for a history of abuse and signs of rabies. In a conversation with Smith on Wednesday, she said the dog would likely be put down.

Kulpmont Police Chief Richard Wilson III told the News-Item the case remains under investigation. He

said Northumberland County Assistant District Attorney William Cole is still involved but no charges have been filed. However, Smith confirmed she and the family would be pressing charges against the owner.

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