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Police dog bite sends child to hospital

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CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa

A 13-month-old child is recovering after being bitten in the head by a Linn County Sheriff's Office dog.

According to a statement released by Sheriff Brian Gardner, the child "suffered head lacerations from a single bite wound," on Friday night. The child was taken to St. Lukes Hospital before being transferred to Iowa City by helicopter.

Gardner says the injuries were not life threatening. Authorities are not identifying the child at the family's request.

The bite happened at Deputy Shawn Irelands home in northwest Cedar Rapids about 8:40 p.m. Friday. The dog, named Axel, is a 4-year-old Belgian Malinois, and has been partnered with Ireland since October.

Gardner says he is still deciding what action to take. He says he doesn't believe the dog will be euthanized.

Information from: The Gazette, <http://www.gazetteonline.com/>

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