



Dog Bite Has One Parent Concerned

Reported by: *Emily Baucum*
Tuesday, Jun 16, 2009 @08:35pm

A Springfield mother speaks out against what she calls a neighborhood menace.

Pam Fisher says her neighbor's dog attacked her daughter Saturday night. She says this isn't the first offense.

Fisher says her neighbor's German Shepherd mix, Cisco, has had two strikes with the law in about a month.

The dog's owner says he wouldn't hurt anyone unless provoked, but Fisher's speaking out, hoping to prevent a third strike.

Fisher says her kids were just playing outside.

"I've told the kids not to go around Cisco," she says.

Cisco lives next door, and spends most days tied up to these cinderblocks.

"It's getting kind of beefed up by dragging the two cinderblocks around that it's tied up to," Fisher says.

She says the blocks don't stop Cisco -- they just slow him down.

"He lunges about two to three feet each time he does that," Fisher says.

She says the German Shepherd mix lunged toward her daughter, Morgan.

"By the time she realized the dog was getting close to her, it was too late," Fisher says.

She filed a bite report with Animal Control, and now the dog is quarantined for ten days.

"The only criteria has to be that skin is broken," Randy Barnts of Animal Control says.

"She's got 10 stitches," Fisher says. "And that's three-days old," as she removes a bandage from Morgan's upper arm.

Fisher says everywhere you see a bandage, her five-year-old daughter has a stitch.

"It just basically got her behind the leg," Fisher says while pointing to a different bandage.

Animal Control says Cisco's owner followed the law.

"Dogs have to be either chained or behind the fence at all times," Barnts says.

But records show Cisco is a repeat offender.

"We knew the dog was loose about a month ago and scratched another child, because it was quarantined at that time as well," Barnts says.

And three weeks later, Cisco's now back behind bars.

"The severity of his attacks are getting more frequent, more severe," Fisher says.

Cisco comes home next week, but Fisher says the dog needs to stay where he is.

"This dog's had enough chances," she says. "It needs to be put down."

Cisco's owner declined to speak to us on camera. He did tell us he wasn't home when the Fishers say Morgan was attacked.

He believes the kids invaded Cisco's space, which provoked the dog. He says the dog is only 14 months old, and doesn't deserve to be put down.

It is a lengthy process before that would happen. The Fishers would have to ask Animal Control for a vicious dog investigation. A court order is necessary to hold the dog at Animal Control. A judge would decide if the dog should be returned to his owner, returned with conditions set, or euthanized.
