



## THE MISSISSIPPI PRESS

### 8-year-old boy requires 30 stitches after alleged dog attack

Thursday, June 18, 2009

By **CHERIE WARD**

It's every mother's nightmare: a frantic call saying that your child is being rushed to the hospital covered in blood from a dog attack.

Caroline Little endured that experience this week, when her 8-year-old son required 30 stitches to close bite wounds on his right leg Monday.

Police seized the chow mix from its Gautier owner, and it has been held at the Jackson County Animal Shelter since about 6:30 p.m. Monday.

Gautier Animal Control Officer Guy Funk said that the dog has been deemed a danger to society.

The dog will be quarantined at the shelter until June 25 to make sure it is not infected with rabies. It will then remain at the shelter until Gautier City Judge Gary Roberts rules whether it should be euthanized.

The dog's owner, Samuel Mulcahey, could not be reached for comment Wednesday.

Little said that the attack left her son bandaged up to his knee and on crutches.

"He loves to play soccer and wanted to play football this year," Little said. "Now, I'm afraid he'll have to sit this year out."

Little said she believes that the chow should be destroyed before it harms another child. Funk said that he would recommend euthanization to Roberts.

Little said, "Dogs need to be on a leash at all times when outside. ... And parents need to teach children that not all dogs are friendly."

A countywide law requires dogs to be leashed when not inside a house or confined in an outdoor pen.

Little's son, Jacob Vickers, said that the dog rushed him and his friends as they played outside at his grandparents' house on Petunia Street in Gautier at about 4 p.m. Monday.

He said that the dog had been at a house across the street.

"She looked like a big bear coming at me," the Martin Bluff Elementary second-grader said of the black dog.

"She just filleted his right leg open," Little said of the dog. "There was meat and fatty chunks

hanging out. The doctors had to reconstruct his skin to put his leg back together."

Jacob managed to get away and run inside his grandparents' house.

Little and her son have told their story to police. Funk said that officers were working to "sort out all the particulars."

Little said that her son is taking antibiotics and pain medication, and is due for a physician visit today to assess the need for physical therapy and further surgery.

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