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Toddler's finger 'almost severed' by dog bite

June 11, 2009

POLICE are trying to trace the owner of a dog which nearly bit a three-year-old boy's finger off in Reigate.

The child was going into Priory Park with his parents at about 11am on Sunday, May 31 through the Morrisons entrance.

The family passed a woman who had three small dogs on leads, one of which jumped up and bit the toddler on his left middle finger.

Police said the finger was "almost severed". The boy was taken to East Surrey Hospital in Redhill and was later treated at St George's Hospital in Tooting, south London.

The dog owner was described as white, aged in her late 40s to early 50s, of slim build, and with blonde/greying unkempt hair. She was wearing a white summer dress with blue flowers on it.

The dogs were described as a brown Staffordshire bull terrier and possibly a Jack Russell, while the animal which bit the toddler was believed to be a Chihuahua.

Detective Constable Dale Brunt said: "I am appealing to anyone who was in Priory Park on Sunday, May 31 to come forward.

"It was a sunny day and I am convinced lots of people would have been out in the park soaking up the lovely weather.

"We need to identify the owner of the dog in order to take appropriate action. The lady knew her dog had bitten the young boy but she didn't seem concerned for the boy's welfare nor did she stop to provide her name and address.

"With your help we can identify the owner and ensure justice is done for the three-year-old and his family."

Anyone with any information is urged to contact Surrey Police on 0845 125 2222, quoting reference RB/09/5095, or call Crimestoppers if you wish to remain anonymous.

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