



March 9, 2009

Dog attack on preschooler called 'tragic accident'

By Eric Connor
STAFF WRITER

A preschooler viciously attacked by his grandparents' dog in Greenville over the weekend was in critical condition today in what authorities say appears to be a "tragic accident."

The attack happened Saturday afternoon at the boy's grandparents' home on Whaling Way on the Eastside, Greenville County Sheriff's Master Deputy Melissa McKinney said.

The boy, 3-year-old Andrew Sharp, was visiting his grandparents' home Saturday afternoon and was in the backyard with the German Shepherd when the dog bit him numerous times in the head, McKinney said.

The boy was transported to Greenville Memorial Hospital and later was air-lifted to Levine's Children's Hospital in Charlotte because of the extent of his injuries, she said.

Animal control has quarantined the dog and is expected to euthanize it after examining it, sheriff's Lt. Shea Smith said.

Both animal control and the sheriff's office are investigating the case, Smith said.

So far, Smith said, there's no indication that the dog had been suffering from any particular ailment. The family had adopted the dog from the animal shelter months earlier, he said.

"It sounds like it was a behavioral issue," Smith said. "At this point, it just appears it was a tragic accident."
