

## **Toddler airlifted after bite near eye**

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Rescuers rushed a toddler to the hospital Friday night after a dog bit his face.

A paramedic carried the boy to a helicopter, which landed at the Fort Walton Beach YMCA about 6:30 p.m. and left for Sacred Heart Hospital in Pensacola.

The bite was near the boy's eye, said Dee Thompson, animal services director for the Panhandle Animal Welfare Society.

It came from a family dog, an 11-month-old German Shepherd-Labrador mix that was scheduled to be neutered Saturday, Thompson said. Instead, the dog will be put in mandatory quarantine for 10 days - restricted from contact with other animals. Because the bite was within the family's household, she said the dog can serve out its quarantine at home.

It was current on its rabies shots, Thompson said. She described the bite as playful.