



Wednesday, March 11, 2009 |  
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# Darlington County girl attacked by dog

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By KELLY GILLESPIE

Reporter

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In Darlington County one family continues to deal with what they call a dog attack.

It happened a month ago.

A bunch of kids were playing on a trampoline.

That's when family members said a yellow lab bit a seven year old girl in the ear.

"The only reason she's not dead is because when she went down the dog was on top of her and she was face down," Robin Conger, victim's parent said.

Seven year-old Delainey Conger continues to suffer.

"She has had some night terrors and just going through surgeries," Conger said.

According to reports, Delainey was at a friend's jumping on their trampoline, their dogs began fighting and part of her ear was bitten off.

"There's a future of pain and bad times, but we're focused on now getting justice," Conger said.

Over the years, Delainey will have to undergo more surgery.

On top of that her family just found out the county attorney did not deem the dog dangerous.

"The letter was read to me over the phone, and everyone I work with had to turn around because I was kicking my desk. I was pissed," Conger said.

We contacted the county administrator, who said the case is turned over to their attorney, who did not return our calls.

In Darlington County the law defines a dangerous animal as any animal that has the tendency or disposition to attack unprovoked, to cause injury or endanger the safety of humans or other animals.

If an animal is deemed dangerous it must be registered for public safety.

If a dangerous animal attacks and is considered a continued threat a court may order it killed.

Conger also told News13 she plans on asking county council to pass a tougher animal ordinance.

As far as the dog that bit her daughter, it's been released to the owner.

## Reader Reactions

Posted by ( Vikki03 ) on March 11, 2009 at 10:50 am

I am also outraged!! I think before you put information on News, web or TV you should have all your facts. I have lived near the family of the dog and been to there home more than you could count! I have

been around there dog as has my child. We have never been afraid or worried that this dog would hurt anyone. The child in question has also been there a lots of time with and without her parents. One of the parents was there when this happen. We are still not afraid to go over there. The dog was never removed from there home and the family has followed all compliance with Animal Control and DHEC. The dog was deem NOT dangerous. This is a dog that has been with this family since he was born he is apart of this family. The family is very upset and sorry this happen to the child have taken steps to ensure all medical bills that comes from the attack to be payed. They do not feel as do I that they should be verbal attacked like they have been by this family day in and day out. The owner of the Lab is wonderful people they have three children of there own and would never ever have a dog that would hurt anyone. These people are just out to sue somebody they don't care what it cost or who they hurt even its a friend our family they don't care. Some people should be ashamed for the way they behave. They should remember our children learn from our actions.

#### Report Inappropriate Comment

Posted by ( marlow99 ) on March 11, 2009 at 10:20 am

I am very dissapointed that this incident has gone this far. I personally know the owner of this so called dangerous animal and she would never in a million years have an animal that she thought would harm a person. This dog (yellow lab) was born in her back yard and was raised by them. She has three small children that play with this animal on a daily basis. I have a daughter that goes to this home and plays in the yard with the dog and I have absolutely no concerns. It is my understanding that the mother of the child was in the house when the incident happened and was fully aware that the child was in the yard in the company of the dog. While this incident was most unfortunate, how much should this family have to pay for this. There are flyers being posted all over town with the dog owners information including the home phone number, address and picture of the dog. This is a violation of their privacy and can be extremely dangerous. As stated before, this family has three small children and two of those children attend public schools. How fair is it to those children for their family to be exploited in a manner of this nature. If some harm comes to this animal or member of this family then who is to blame? DHEC, Aniaml Control and several cops have been to this home and it is my understanding that they all agree the animal is not dangerous. So who makes the decisions here, a parent that is not an expert or the people that do this everyday and have seen truly dangerous animals? This family has been through enough and I really think that if the childs parents had her best interest at heart, they would want her to get passed this and be able to move on. It is really sad that a person would try to ruin a family and its reputation to seek so called "justice". The justice in this situation would be getting the child back to normal so she can focus on her future not throwing it in her face everyday to hurt others.

#### Report Inappropriate Comment

Posted by ( example16 ) on March 11, 2009 at 10:16 am

"There's a future of pain and bad times, but we're focused on now getting justice," Conger said.

I'm having a hard time understanding this focus. Why is the focus getting justice? Why is it not caring for their child? The little girl experienced something very traumatic and now she needs her mom to comfort her, not post their business all over town and the news. The parents of this little girl should get their priorities straight.

According to everyone one who knows the dog and Animal Control the dog is not a threat and was provoked. It sounds to me like the dog owners are doing everything they can to make sure the little girl has what she needs.

I live in Hartsville and have seen the flyers that the girl's family is posting. It is clearly inflammatory and has the owners name and address listed. How is this ok?

To the parents of the little girl...The dog owners have children and you are posting their address all over town. Do you not understand the danger you are putting these children in? As a parent you should. You have gone too far. It is time to stop and FOCUS ON YOUR CHILD.

Report Inappropriate Comment

Posted by ( shunt701 ) on March 11, 2009 at 9:30 am

I am the mother of one of the five children that was present the day of the incident. My five year old himself voluntarily stated that the little girl would not leave the dog alone, even after the dog growled to warn the child. The child was also warned by the owner of the dog to leave him alone. It is a most unfortunate incident that happened. However, children will be children, and in this situation the dog was provoked. My son continues to stay at this house everyday after school and play with the dog. I have no hesitations about this at all. As a dog owner myself, I am aware of the animal laws in South Carolina and strongly feel that the laws in place are more than sufficient. Maybe parents should pay more attention to their children and teach them how to better treat animals.

I do wish the child the best recovery possible. I also know for a fact that the dog owners have taken steps to ensure that all of the current medical expenses and future reconstructive cost have been and will be taken care of. They have complied to all Animal Control and DHEC specifications. They have gone above and beyond to make sure that they have followed proper procedures after the incident. The child's recovery is a top concern of theirs.

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Posted by ( outraged ) on March 11, 2009 at 8:34 am

I am OUTRAGED over this article. Cromer9386 you are exactly correct that the entire story is not being told here. I personally know the family and this dog. My child has been around this dog numerous time and it IS NOT A VICIOUS DOG. The truth is that the child PROVOKED the dog after being told to stop. The family has taken care of ALL medical expenses for this child. This family is just out to sue at the expense of their child. All they are after is a free ride!

I am outraged at TV-13 that they printed this story without getting all the facts. The dog owner was not even talked too. People like this are the reason the world is in the shape it is in!

Report Inappropriate Comment

Posted by ( AllWorkNoPlay ) on March 11, 2009 at 8:30 am

What upsets me is that if this had been a pit or a rottweiler, the dog would have already been put down. While I feel for the child and the family and I wish her a full recovery, this does go to show you that ANY dog breed can attack. As the saying goes, there are no bad dogs, only bad owners.

Report Inappropriate Comment

Posted by ( cromer9386 ) on March 11, 2009 at 8:13 am

My question is they said the little girl was on the trampoline how did she get bite by the dog was the dog

on the trampoline too? Somebody not telling the whole story. I know any dog can attack somebody but I have never heard of a lab attack somebody. But things can happen.

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Posted by ( william ) on March 11, 2009 at 7:18 am

We need to update the way we handle dogs. Anyone that breeds dogs should be a registered breeder. That would ease the dog pound crowding and more level headed dogs and more responsible dog people. I don't know all the facts of this case, but overall this would help.

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