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Update: Owner charged after dog mauls 5-year-old



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UPDATED: Thursday, May 21, 2009 3:19 p.m.

By **Colleen Hogan**
Wednesday, May 20, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.

ELSTON --

A Cole County boy bitten by large dog is out of the hospital and at home Wednesday night, recovering from his injuries.

The focus now is on the police investigation launched to determine whether anyone is at fault for the attack.

It happened in an instant. "Literally two seconds is all it took," said the boy's stepmother, Cindy McDaniel, who was a witness to the attack.

Five-year old Rocky Scrivner was playing in between his father's and next door neighbor's backyards with some other kids when the neighbor's mastiff, Tanner, ran into the yard and jumped on the little boy, knocking him down and biting his face and neck.

"We weren't even ten feet away," said McDaniel.

"Imagine your five-year old son having his face bit by a dog," said Ryan Scrivner, Rocky's father. "There's no description to it."

Ryan Scrivner ran to his son and the boy was flown to University Hospital in Columbia for emergency treatment. In all, more than 100 stitches mark Rocky's face and neck. His parents say he's lucky to be alive.

"He's been fine, he didn't complain about the pain," said Scrivner. "He was more worried about his Spiderman shirt being cut off."

Rocky's parents and many neighbors say the mastiff has been running the streets and threatening people for the past year. Neighbors say they've been calling animal control for about a year now about the dog. They say the dog that attacked Rocky has bitten at least two others, and when they've called Cole County Animal Control, not enough was done.

The mastiff was taken from the scene by Cole County Animal Control. Sheriff's deputies would only say the dog is still alive.

The Cole County Prosecutor has filed charges against the owner of the dog.

Stormy Garlin of Elston has been charged with with endangering the welfare of a child and animal abuse under state statutes, according to court documents obtained by KRCG.

The bull Mastiff is being held by authorities - they say the results of a separate investigation will determine its fate.

The sheriff's department confirmed with KRCG that they knew about at least one other instance of the mastiff biting a child back in March. The incident was not reported right away to law enforcement, and when it was a Cole County Animal Control officer spoke to the woman who owns the dog and told her it was her responsibility to control the animal.

Rocky's family has set up a trust fund at Central Bank to help with his medical expenses, you can call the bank at (573) 634-1111 for more information.



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Concernedinjeff

Posted by Dana concerned, Jefferson City - Friday, May 22, 2009 at 7:16 a.m.

We have a pit bull that runs the neighborhood and actually got inside our fence at one point and when we called the Jefferson City Animal Shelter they told us that they could come get it and fine the owner but it wouldn't do any good because of where we live they knew that nobody would ever pay the fine or come collect the dog. Ridiculous.

Leash Laws only work if enforced

Posted by Blame the owner Not the dog, Fulton - Thursday, May 21, 2009 at 9:45 p.m.

Go down just about any street in Fulton and you'll see a dog running loose. I've called the animal control several times. I was actually told once to call the neighbor myself, because if they came out to take care of it they would have to fine the owner. My dog is not friendly, but he is always on a leash. Everyone else should have to follow the laws too. Shame on all the people who didn't do something about this dog before the child got hurt. Thank God that the poor little boy didn't die.
If you want your dog to run loose spend the money on an invisible fence system and warn people to stay out of your yard if your dog isn't friendly.

My nephew

Posted by Regina H., Florida - Thursday, May 21, 2009 at 5:06 p.m.

This is my nephew. He is at home with his mom, and is doing well. I am outraged that this dog was allowed to roam the neighborhood after previously attacking other people. I am glad that charges are being pressed, but I implore all of you that live in the county to call your local representative and ask for a leash law to be instated in the county. We do not need another case like this, and the people of the county can make the changes to help make sure owners are fined if a dog is not on a leash!

It was only a matter of time...

Posted by sarah parker, jefferson city - Thursday, May 21, 2009 at 3:39 p.m.

I am so sorry for this family and this poor boy. My heart goes out to you. I had to call the animal control several times last year at my old residence because a pit bull and doberman were constantly roming the neighborhood and charging my self and my kids (5yrs, 2yrs, and 1yr) while were outside playing. I even had to kick one of the dogs away one time becuase it was going after my 5 year old. Wouldn't you know that they owners got of 3 TIMES with only a WARNING!!!! We spent a whole summer either going elsewhere or playing inside. I hope someone learns from this...

Praying for the family

Posted by Kristy Fisher, Russellville, MO - Thursday, May 21, 2009 at 1:56 p.m.

We are friends of Ryan Scrivner and wanted to just post this as a way to offer our sympathy and prayers. I agree with offing the dog, and the owner if she/he couldn't even remark about the situation! Good Luck Ryan to you and your family. He's a gorgeous boy and my prayers are with him!

OFF THE OWNER AND THE DOG!!!

Posted by J J, Fulton - Thursday, May 21, 2009 at 1:05 p.m.

I SAY OFF THE OWNER AND THE DOG!!! TRUST ME, IF THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN MY CHILD, THE DOG DEFINATELY WOULD HAVE BEEN SHOT ON THE SPOT!! I HOPE THAT THE OWNER HAS TO PAY ALL THE MEDICAL EXPENSES CREATED BY HIS/HER ANIMAL'S ACTIONS. TO ROCKY AND HIS FAMILY, I HOPE THE GOOD LORD ABOVE SENDS COMFORT AND A SPEEDY RECOVERY.

Sue the owner, the county, and the animal control

Posted by Bill D, JC - Thursday, May 21, 2009 at 10:04 a.m.

They should sue the owner, the county, and the Animal control officer. At the very least the Dog should be destroyed, the owner thrown in jail, and the animal control department investigated and all responsible fired.

OMG

Posted by Gail H, MO - Wednesday, May 20, 2009 at 10:05 p.m.

At first I was appauled at you showing this picture but then I thought maybe it will make others think about keeping their dogs chained away from little ones!

I pray this poor little guy heals ok

Should've never happened

Posted by Family Rather not say, Missouri - Wednesday, May 20, 2009 at 9:30 p.m.

First off, I would like to say that this should've never happened!! This dog should've been taken care of after the 1st time it bit someone and if the owner to this dog was any kind of person, she would have called to talk to Rocky's parents and check on how he was doing instead of hiding like a coward. I hope this makes other people realize how important it is to take care of your dogs

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and keep them on a leash. This poor baby could have been killed and all of this could have easily been prevented. If a dog attacks once, it will attack again. I have one thing to say to the dogs owner, I hope that you pay dearly for this and I hope you see his precious little face everytime you close your eyes. You should do the right thing and handle this like an adult. Hang in there Rocky, I hope you get to feeling better and we love you.

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