



Teenager bitten by dog at road race

By Lynne Hendricks
STAFF WRITER

May 18, 2009 03:53 am

NEWBURYPORT — A 13-year-old boy was taken to Anna Jaques Hospital for a dog bite he received yesterday while walking in the area of Washington and Kent streets.

The boy was reportedly waiting for his parents along the race route of Bresnahan Elementary School Spring Fever 5K when the approximately 15-pound mixed breed bit him on the back of his leg, according to officer Robert Vatcher.

"His parents were running in one of the road races," said Vatcher. "He stopped to ask a guy a question about one of his dogs and the dog snapped at him."

Though Vatcher characterized the wounds as minor, he said that the nature of the puncture wounds necessitated a need for treatment, and after tending to the bleeding victim at the scene, the officer was concerned enough to call for emergency transport.

"Anytime there's a puncture, you want to get it checked," said Vatcher.

Police and fire rescue both responded to the 1:13 p.m. medical aid distress call, but upon arrival to the scene the Fire Department turned back and a call for an ambulance was placed. The boy, who according to Vatcher resides on Olive Street, met up with his parents at Anna Jaques.

"I treated the wound at the scene," said Vatcher. "I wrapped it up and called for the ambulance, which transported him to the hospital, and the parents met me at the emergency room."

Mike Allen of 60 Boardman St. confirmed that his dog, a terrier "mutt," was guilty of biting the boy, though it's unknown if the dog was leashed at the time of the attack.

"He nipped a little boy on the ankle and took a chunk out of him," said Allen, who declined to provide additional details of the incident.

Vatcher referred specific details regarding the animal's health records and possible fines or consequences to the city's on-call emergency Animal Control officer Thomasine Ambrose, who met Vatcher at the Allen home to interview the owner regarding the dog's records and past immunizations.

Citing a policy of not providing information without prior approval from the city's health director, Jack Morris, Ambrose declined to discuss the incident.

"I can't give out any information about any investigation like that," said Ambrose. "It has to go through him."

Copyright © 1999-2008 cnhi, inc.