

Surgery for dog bite girl

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A THREE-YEAR-OLD girl needed specialist surgery after her face was bitten by a dog.

The girl's mother, Amber Jessopp, had turned her back for a few seconds when the terrifying incident happened.

The dog, a collie, was behind a garden gate but got to the girl's face through the slats.

Mrs Jessopp said oral and maxillofacial surgeons at Morriston Hospital had done a fantastic job, but felt the dog's owner had a case to answer and that the police should be doing more.

South Wales Police said its investigation was ongoing.

Mrs Jessopp, who didn't want to name her daughter, explained she was buckling up her young son and a friend in her car near Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Lonlas, in Llansamlet.

Her daughter was standing on the pavement, a couple of feet from the gate.

"We could see the dog in the garden, and I'd warned the children not to touch it." said Mrs Jessopp. "My daughter was talking nonsense to the dog, but under no circumstances was she antagonising it.

"I was clipping in her brother and didn't actually see what happened. She was near the gate — I'm not denying that — but she wasn't through it.

Snarl

"I heard the dog snarl and, at the same time, a scream. When I turned round she was on the floor. The dog had clawed her face and bitten her.

"I scooped her up and put a jumper to her face to stop her bleeding."

The shocked youngster underwent an operation before being discharged from hospital the following evening.

"It's miraculous how well it's healing," said Mrs Jessopp. The mother-of-two, from Lon Enfys, Llansamlet, said police attended the hospital to take down some details, but that it was a week before she was asked to identify the Collie.

It then transpired that the dog normally lived at a different property to where the incident took place.

Mrs Jessopp said police have given its owner dog-handling advice and were filing a report, but that further action — if any — was weeks or months away.

In the meantime, she alleged the dog had been spotted walking on the street without a lead.

"We are absolutely horrified about that," said the 28-year-old.

A police spokesman said: "On Friday, September 18, police were called to an incident where a

dog had allegedly bitten a three-year- old girl.

The matter is being actively investigated, the dog has been identified, and case papers have been submitted."



Amber Jessopp

