

## 6yo girl scalped by mauling dog

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Workmates of a Cape York man whose six-year-old daughter was scalped in an horrific dog attack have set up a fund to meet the little girl's mounting medical bills.

Isabella King lost the top of her head when a dog grasped hold of her hair and tore it from the roots as she played in a neighbour's yard last Thursday.

The mixed-breed dog, used for pig hunting in the far north township of Weipa, also bit her shoulder to the bone, local media has reported.

She was rushed to the Weipa Hospital but has since been transferred to the Royal Brisbane Women's and Children's Hospital for surgery to reattach 70 per cent of her scalp, which was torn off in two pieces.

Hospital officials have refused to discuss her condition with the media, but in an interview with *The Cairns Post*, Isabella's father Asa said 50 per cent of the reattached tissue had died, forcing surgeons to use skin grafts.

Doctors are also using specially-bred medical leeches flown to Brisbane from interstate to help prevent a blood clot.

"As we were waiting [to get to the hospital] she wasn't crying," Mr King told the newspaper.

"Bella looked up at me and said, 'Daddy can you see my brain?'"

"It's been a rollercoaster ride for the entire family. I couldn't believe what happened to my beautiful six-year-old daughter."

Isabella's mother Tamaine was able to fight off the mauling dog by shoving a garden hose down its throat.

A Weipa Town Council spokeswoman said the dog, which was being kept as a pet, had been destroyed immediately after the attack.

The owners had surrendered it to police.

This morning, staff at Carpentaria Contractors, where Mr King works as a manager, said they has set up a trust to help the family meet Isabella's medical expenses.

Isabella's three siblings were flown to Brisbane last night to be at her bedside.

*This story was found at: <http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/queensland/6yo-girl-scalped-by-mauling-dog-20091019-h4du.html>*