

Dog that bit child twice might not be put down after all

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LAKEVILLE — It appears a reprieve is in the works for Firewall, the greyhound ordered euthanized by the selectmen after it bit a 2-year-old boy on two occasions.

If Firewall can be placed with a rescue organization that would absolve the town of any liability if the dog bites again, officials would be agreeable to that.

"We have to put him down if I can't find a place for him in 15 days," Animal Control Officer David Frates said at midweek, noting that the dog is being kept at the Lakeville shelter.

However, Frates predicted "one of the rescue organizations will take him. ... They could re-home him with a place with no children.

"He'll probably go to the rescue in Middleboro. ... (It) has a good reputation for placing greyhounds. They'll have to sign a paper that they know he bit someone and, if he bites someone again, we're not responsible."

At Monday's hearing before selectmen, it was disclosed that the greyhound was staying with Jennifer Safford at her Kensington Court apartment.

Safford allowed a woman she knew to move in with her boyfriend and 2-year-old son and that is when the biting incidents took place.

Safford took the dog because her daughter, Samantha Lilley of Fall River, could not care for it when her husband was called to active military duty. The Lilleys have a 1-year-old daughter.

"No matter if he bit or not, the greyhound adoption agency would take a dog and keep it rather than have it put down," Lilley said.

Safford, who was evicted when the apartment management learned of the dog's presence there, is moving to Manchester, N.H. She has expressed an interest in adopting the dog and taking him with her if she can get the necessary clearance.

Safford said her daughter worked at Raynham Park, where the greyhound, now 5 years old, raced and found out about Firewall there.

Frates was not sure that Safford would be able to adopt the dog, adding that would be up to the rescue agency.

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