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Loose dog attacks girl at bus stop

By Michelle Willey / Hi-Desert Star

YUCCA VALLEY - Eight-year-old Brandy Johnson was strolling to the bus stop with her friends on Sept. 1, thinking she would be going to school like any other day, but this day was different. This day she was attacked by a loose dog.

Brandy's mother, La Anna Johnson, remembered soon after she sent Brandy to the bus stop, she heard a scream but her first thought was it was a playing scream.

Johnson lives on the corner of Anaconda Drive and Sage Avenue in Yucca Valley. The bus stop is around the corner on Sage Avenue and Bonanza Drive. The neighbor who lives behind the Johnsons saw everything that happened, said Johnson.

She said neighbor Helen Parker reported seeing a little boy at the bus stop kick a black dog. Angered, the dog attacked the first person it saw. That happened to be Brandy.

Parker saw the dog on top of Brandy and tried to get the dog off of her, said Johnson.

She said Parker told her the dog had such a grip on Brandy that it was swinging both Parker and Brandy around.

After she hit the dog and threw things at it, the dog finally released his jaws from the little girl's chest and ran.

Parker then sent one of her own children to get a towel, another child to call 9-1-1 and the other to get Brandy's mother.

Johnson said when she got to the bus stop and saw Brandy, the little girl appeared to be in shock.

"She wasn't crying," said Johnson. "Brandy said it hurt but, she was just sitting there staring ahead."

Once an ambulance got to the scene, paramedics decided to transport Brandy to Desert Regional Medical Center in Palm Springs for her wounds, said Johnson.

"They gave her 10 milligrams of morphine for the pain," the girl's mother recalled.

At the medical center it was determined Brandy would need plastic surgery on her chest, so she was sent to Loma Linda Medical Center.

Johnson said there are so many stitches on her daughter's body, she can't even count how many there are.

The dog only left skin-deep wounds, and Brandy's arteries and muscles were spared, her mother said.

Brandy has not been to school since the attack. She is having trouble eating by herself because of her injuries and she is having trouble sleeping by herself because she is scared.

The girl is now terrified of big dogs.

Speaking on the telephone about the attack, Johnson said she thought she heard that the dog who attacked I might get adopted, and when her daughter overheard her, she cried, "What if the dog gets adopted and come me again?" and began sobbing.

Johnson added that before the attack occurred, Brandy would go to the house where the dog lived and play v dog owner's children, who are in Brandy's age range. While at the house, the dog never showed any signs of aggression toward any of the children playing there, said Johnson.

Town of Yucca Valley Animal Control Supervisor Melanie Crider said the dog is on a 10-day hold in their facilit the 10 days, the dog will be put to sleep.

"It appeared to be a vicious attack," Crider stated.

Crider reported the dog was in the street when it attacked the little girl.

Crider learned through her investigation that the dog was shaking the little girl like a rag doll.

Crider described the dog as a 2-year-old Labrador and chow mix that was not neutered.

She said the dog's owners released the dog willingly to animal control.

"The owners are very upset about it," added Crider.

-- CLOSE WINDOW --
