

Boy, 3, scalped by pitbull

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December 5th, 2009

A THREE-YEAR-OLD boy has had most of his scalp torn off by a pet dog in a frenzied attack in a Territory backyard.

The pitbull-cross latched on to the young boy's hair and ripped it from his head.

He suffered horrific injuries, with a 10cm long by 7cm wide section of his scalp left exposed.

The attack happened as the boy was playing in the backyard of a relative's home on Holtz Cres at Katherine about 6.15pm on Thursday.

It is understood the family were inside the home and did not witness the mauling.

The boy's mother heard her son's screams and frantically ran outside to find him covered in blood.

She called Triple and St John Ambulance rushed to the scene.

Paramedics whisked the toddler and his mother into the ambulance and raced him to Katherine Hospital.

Ambulance deputy operations manager Craig Garraway said it was a nasty injury.

"The dog has taken the top of his scalp off from his forehead right back," he said.

"I would imagine he would have to undergo a series of surgeries to repair the severed scalp."

The boy and his family are from Tennant Creek.

They had travelled to Katherine for a family member's funeral.

Katherine Council regulatory services officers attended the home and removed the dog at the family's request.

It has since been destroyed.

The boy last night remained in a stable condition at Katherine Hospital.

The attack comes just two weeks after a 12-year-old girl was rushed to Royal Darwin Hospital after her family's pet dog savaged her arm when it mistook her for an intruder in her Howard Springs home in Darwin's rural area.

It is understood the girl had walked to her home on Hillier Rd with her brother from school but when they arrived they could not find their keys to get in the house.

The dog - believed to be a bull-mastiff/great dane cross - turned on the girl as she climbed through a window.

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Pitbull rips off three-year-old boy's scalp

13:00 AEST Sat Dec 5 2009

By ninemsn staff

A three-year-old boy has had most of his scalp torn off in a pitbull attack in the Northern Territory.

The boy, whose name has not been released, was playing in the backyard of a relative's house in Katherine when a pitbull latched onto his hair and ripped off a large section of his scalp, the *NT news* reports.

The boy's mother, who was inside the house at the time of the mauling, ran outside when she heard his screams.

Paramedics rushed the boy to Katherine Hospital where he was treated for his injuries.

A large part of the boy's scalp, measuring 10cm by 7cm was left exposed after the attack.

Ambulance deputy operations manager Craig Garraway told the *NT News* that the boy had sustained an extremely severe injury.

"The dog has taken the top of his scalp off from his forehead right back," the newspaper quoted him as saying.

"I would imagine he would have to undergo a series of surgeries to repair the severed scalp."

The dog involved in the attack has been put down.

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