

Child Mauled By Dog in Conyers

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CONYERS, Ga. (MyFOX Atlanta) - A 4-year-old Conyers boy is hospitalized in critical condition after a vicious dog attack at his Conyers home. Nathaniel Stafford suffered severe head injuries. The dog's owner agreed to have the animal put down.

It was a vicious attack. Nathaniel Stafford is recovering at Scottish Rite Hospital Friday night.

"The dog tore his skull the top of his skull from about right here it was lying on the ground," said the victim's boyfriend, Brian Caron. "It tore his ears off (and) lacerated his whole throat. They said if it was a quarter inch deeper it would have gotten his jugular vein -- would have killed him."

Caron said they were doing a favor for the dog's owner, and agreed to keep it tied up on the lower part of their property.

"It was scarier than anything I've ever scene. (It was) more scary than a scary movie. I've never seen anything like it my entire life," said Caron.

"It's far enough away from the house, I never thought anything like this would happen, but it did," said the victim's father.

The lab-pit mix named "Chaos" somehow the dog broke loose and attacked the boy. It is being held at the Rockdale County Animal Shelter. His owner, Thomas Chastain, has agreed to have the dog put down.

"Chaos shouldn't have bit him. He's at fault there. I don't doubt that. I gave them permission to put him down," said Chastain.

As for Nathaniel, Caron said the child has a long recovery ahead.

"His face is all sewed up right now. His ears are back on. They haven't done anything with the top of his head. They said it could take 10 days before they can do skin graph on the top of his head," Caron said.

WSB Atlanta

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4-Year-Old Mauled By Dog May Lose Ear

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ROCKDALE COUNTY, Ga. -- WARNING: This story contains graphic details and may not be suitable for some readers.

A 4-year-old Rockdale County boy faces skin graft surgery after a pit bull mix named "Chaos" attacked him.

The boy's mother said she literally pulled her son from the jaws of the dog and boy's stepfather fought the dog as it kept attacking.

Channel 2 Action News reporter Jeff Dore went to the hospital to talk with the boy's stepfather about what happened.

"He's an animal lover. He loves on them, kisses on them," said Brian Caron. Caron is the stepfather of 4-year-old Nathaniel Stafford.

When Caron came home from work, Nathaniel's mother asked him to help her find Nathaniel.

JEFF DORE: Boy Mauled By Dog May Lose Ear

"The next thing I know, I heard her screaming bloody murder and I came running around the corner and I saw his skull hanging out and his ear hanging onto his shoulder. I'd never seen anything like that in my entire life," said Caron.

A pit bull mix named Chaos was shaking Nathaniel by the head. The dog belonged to a friend of Nathaniel's parents who had left it chained to a runner in their back yard for about a month.

Nathaniel's mother pulled him away from Chaos. Chaos, who bit her too, continued to lunge for Nathaniel. Caron said he had to fight Chaos off.

Nathaniel had nearly lost an ear and his scalp was gone.

"It tore it off and I had to recover it. I had to go back with the cop to the house and pick it up and put it in a bag and he brought it back to the hospital to the life flight," said Caron.

Chaos

Chaos, the dog accused of attacking a Conyers boy.

A helicopter life-flighted Nathaniel to Children's Healthcare of Atlanta at Scottish Rite, but they were not able to reattach his scalp and will have to graft skin.

"Right now they don't know if they're going to be able to save his ear or not. They said if they can't save it, they'll at least put an ear on for him. Whether it's fake or not, he'll at least have an ear," said Caron.

After 10 days in quarantine, the county will euthanize Chaos. Chaos was lawfully chained on a runner and the county said no one will face charges.

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