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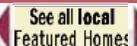


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## 5-year-old boy attacked by pit bull in stable condition after surgery

### Boy's aunt also injured after protecting nephew



BY MICHAEL VALKYS AND EMILY STEWART • POUGHKEEPSIE JOURNAL • APRIL 17, 2009

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MYERS CORNER - The 5-year-old boy who was bitten by a pit bull yesterday is in stable condition at Westchester Medical Center after receiving "upwards of 1,000 stitches," for 80 to 100 lacerations on his face and scalp, according to police.



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The woman who was injured in the attack was the boy's aunt and dog's owner, said Sgt. Michael Collier of the New York State Police at Wappingers.

The boy is currently in the pediatric intensive care unit at Westchester Medical after undergoing surgery around 4:30 a.m. today. "It's going to be a lengthy recovery," Collier said.

The pit bull attacked the boy Thursday when he and his aunt were playing ball in her back yard off Taryl Court, according to Investigator Dan Smith of the state police at Wappingers.

The attack was apparently unprovoked, said Smith.

The woman stopped the dog from biting her nephew by laying on the boy, which left her own arm exposed to attack. Eventually she was able to calm the dog down, carried her nephew to her car and called 911 from her cell phone, said Smith.

The woman has asked that the dog be put down, according to Jerry Owen, the Town of Wappinger animal control officer, who has the dog in custody right now.

The dog is currently one year old, and was adopted at three months from Out of the Pits in Albany, said Smith. Out of the Pits a non-profit organization dedicated to rescuing pit bulls that have been abandoned or abused, according to its website.

New Hackensack fire Chief Rocco Dimase said the department responded to a report of a dog attack around 5:50 p.m. Thursday. The chief said he arrived to find the boy and woman locked inside a car in the home's garage.

Dimase said the boy had "tear wounds" to his face and head.

"It was apparent he had to go to a Level One trauma center," Dimase said of Westchester Medical, where the boy was taken by helicopter.

The chief said the boy's injuries did not appear to be life-threatening. Dimase said the boy was conscious when he was airlifted to Westchester.

Dimase said the woman suffered bite wounds and was transported by Town of Wappinger ambulance to Saint Francis Hospital in Poughkeepsie.

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Reach Michael Valkys at [mvalkys@poughkeepsiejournal.com](mailto:mvalkys@poughkeepsiejournal.com) or 845-437-4816. Reach Emily Stewart at [estewart@poughkeepsiejournal.com](mailto:estewart@poughkeepsiejournal.com) or 845-437-4882.

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**PRoberts42** wrote:

Pete the Pup from "The Little Rascals" was a American Staffordshire Terrier. A cousin of the American pit bull terrier. Both breeds have become status symbols by poor character human beings that train and fight them. They were origannly bred to be family protectors when men went away from home. They were trained to be commanded by women and safe with children.  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American\\_Staffordshire\\_Terrier](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Staffordshire_Terrier)

BTW Great job on removing the story again PoJo here is url for to the first version.

<http://www.poughkeepsiejournal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090416/NEWS01/90416046>

4/17/2009 3:18:27 AM

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**AgentSquirrel** wrote:

.. I cant even think of what this 3yr old was thinking when the attack was going on.. the fear...pain and horror

.. he will be having nitemares for a long time

.. as a dog lover nothing is worth this horror for your child.. i fear pit bulls and the damage they do..i wouldnt allow them near my dogs..

.. this is not the first incident that i have heard of this month.. there was an attack by a mix pit bull at the dog park where a mans dog was attacked and he rec'd wounds helping his dog

.. the pit owner left quickly prior to giving his name..

.. if you have children never get this breed.. otherwise your children .. or your neighbors kids ..may face the same fate !

..we pray this child recovers fully... !!!

4/17/2009 3:43:37 AM

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**AgentSquirrel** wrote:

correction ..sorry 5yr old..

4/17/2009 3:45:36 AM

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**mfw51143** wrote:

Don't blame the breed. The owner is responsible for the dog and it's upbringing, training, etc. The most obvious problem with this story is that we do not have all of the facts: who, what, where, and why were not answered in this wonderful Pojo story.

4/17/2009 6:52:16 AM

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