

I highlighted red flags in the article in red. Signs that a disaster was about to happen are evident in the article and more than likely had been evident for a long time. No one recognized the signs or did anything to protect the child and the dog. All dogs can bite. Children should never be left alone with dogs. This dog paid for the human's mistakes with his life. The child paid for it with pain and trauma. The adults are to blame, not the dog.

Karen

Girl bitten by dog in intensive care

By: Andrew Perlot, Staff

08/17/2007

MERIDEN -- A 23-month-old girl remained in intensive care Friday afternoon after she was viciously attacked by a dog in a home on Bradley Avenue.

The attack by a husky-German shepherd mix occurred Tuesday and left the girl with several puncture wounds, according to her parents, Laurie and Brennan Freemantle.

The girl also had to have stitches as well as surgery to insert plates and to remove a bone fragment close to her brain. The dog also tore a tendon in the girl's eye, just missing her tear ducts, her parents said.

Police reported the attack as an accidental dog bite and initially said the dog was being quarantined by the animal control officer. The Freemantles said Friday that the dog had been destroyed. They declined to provide their daughter's first name, but said she was expected to be moved out of intensive care Friday night.

Laurie Freemantle recounted the attack during an interview at Yale-New Haven Hospital.

"I looked over and he was on top of her," the girl's mother said. **The dog, named Loki, had been a friend to the girl, the Freemantles said, and would allow her to lay on its stomach and even put Tupperware on its head for fun.**

The two regularly played together. The family was staying at the 264 Bradley Ave. home, which is owned by a family friend. The Freemantles declined to name the friend.

A woman who answered the door Thursday said the girl was fine and at home with her parents. The woman did not identify herself and abruptly closed the door. The Freemantles said their daughter has been in the hospital since the attack.

Laurie Freemantle said the dog growled at her daughter strangely earlier in

the day Tuesday, and that Freemantle closed the door to the room where she and her daughter were playing.

At around 4:30 p.m., the girl opened the door without her mother noticing, and the dog came in. The girl had a bottle in her mouth and walked by the dog, which was chewing on a bone. Freemantle said the dog then leapt on top of her, biting the top of her head multiple times and also injuring her eye.

Laurie Freemantle jumped on the dog, punching and kicking it to try to get it off her daughter, she said. Eventually, although she doesn't remember exactly what happened,

Freemantle believes that she reached around the dog and hauled it off of her daughter, getting bitten on the arm in the process. It did not attack a second time. The dog is about three times larger than the Freemantles' daughter, the couple said.

According to a statement by Meriden police, reported in Thursday's Record-Journal, the girl had attempted to grab the bone out of the dog's mouth, which set off the attack. The couple strongly denied this Friday and objected to initial descriptions of the attack as simply an accidental dog bite.

"This was not a minor little attack," said Brennan Freemantle.

Police told the Freemantles that the dog was brought in willingly by its owner and that it had been euthanized.

"I wanted him dead," Laurie Freemantle said. "Anybody who tries to take my daughter's life isn't going to have the chance again." The Freemantles have not spoken to the dog's owner since the incident.

Police spokesman Sgt. Leonard Caponigro said he didn't expect any charges to be filed in the incident.

A plastic surgeon told the girl's parents that most of the injuries were above the hairline and would not show, and most of the rest had a good chance of fading with time.

The Freemantles said their daughter, even sedated, was trying to stand up in her hospital crib. "She's a tough kid," they said.

"She just kept asking us, 'Loki bite. Why Loki bite?'"

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Parents: Girl's injuries from dog attack were severe
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