



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

P.O. BOX 10070 – BROOKSVILLE, FL 34603-0070 FAX 352 796-0493 PHONE 352 754-6830

Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
Community/Media Relations Manager, 352-797-3609

Re: UPDATE - Spring Hill Toddler Bitten by Dog

Date: May 22, 2018

Update

Investigation revealed that the mother was in the living room with the toddler, who was playing with the dog. For unknown reasons, the dog bit the toddler in the head. Other children in the home came to assist when the mother began screaming.

The toddler was treated on scene by Hernando County Fire Rescue then transported to a local trauma center for advanced care.

Physicians advised the toddler had multiple puncture wounds and two skull fractures. The wounds were not listed as life-threatening, and the toddler is expected to make a full recovery.

The dog was reported to be a Chocolate Lab, senior, male. The dog has been quarantined at Hernando County Animal Services (HCAS).

Family members stated that the dog belongs to the toddler's grandmother and that the dog was obtained from HCAS within the last several months. Upon obtaining the dog from HCAS, authorities there told the family that the dog was not aggressive to people, only to other dogs. Family members also stated the dog has not shown any signs of aggression since they have had it.

Original Information

On 05-21-18 at approximately 1:55 p.m., a 16-month-old child was playing with the family dog under the supervision of the child's mother, when the dog bit the child in the head.

The child suffered traumatic injuries as a result of the dog bite.

Hernando County deputies and Hernando County Fire Rescue responded to the scene. The child was treated on scene by Fire Rescue, then transported to a local trauma center for advanced care.

Preliminary investigation reveals that the family adopted the dog from Hernando County Animal Services approximately two months ago. According to the owner, the dog has shown no signs of aggression in previous encounters.

The owner went on to advise that the dog did not appear to maliciously attack the child, but rather, appeared to be playing.

The case remains under investigation.

The Department of Children and Families has been contacted.

The dog has been quarantined.

There is no additional information available at this time.

The Office of Sheriff:

The Office of the Sheriff is established by the Florida Constitution. As a constitutional officer, the Sheriff has the exclusive authority to administer his or her agency and is responsible for preserving the peace throughout the entire county, carrying out the laws of the state, the orders of Florida courts, and the ordinances of the Board of County Commissioners. The Sheriff is the chief law enforcement and correctional officer of the county.

Sheriff Al Nienhuis was initially appointed as the Sheriff of Hernando County by the Governor in January of 2011. He was then elected by the people of Hernando County in 2012, and remains accountable to them.