

Fourth-Grader Attacked By Pit Bulls

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TUSCALOOSA, Ala. -- A Tuscaloosa County fourth-grader is recovering today from a pit bull attack.

Police said ten-year-old Matilynn Williams was bitten by two pit bulls on the way home from her bus stop yesterday. The attack came a week after the same dogs attacked her eight-year-old brother.

The Sheriff's Office is investigating the incident.

The dogs' owners surrendered the female dog to sheriff's officials to be euthanized. They apparently haven't yet surrendered the male dog.

Matilynn had gotten off her bus from Englewood Elementary School when the dogs charged her. Her mother, Sandretta Williams, heard her screams as she was walking to meet her.

Matilynn received stitches at DCH Regional Medical Center.

A week ago, Matilynn's brother, second-grader Matthew Patton, was bitten by both dogs while riding his bicycle in the community just west of Alabama Highway 69 in south Tuscaloosa County.

He found a cigarette lighter on the ground and lit it to scare one of the dogs off. A neighbor chased off the other.

Matthew was treated for four bites on his arm and two on his legs.

Tuscaloosa County's law on dogs running loose says that dog owners must keep their pets on their property or keep them under control when they're off the property.

Violation of the law is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine ranging from \$2 to \$50.

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