

Escaped pit bulls attack six

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CHICAGO

A 10-year-old boy was in critical condition Sunday after three pit bulls escaped from a home and went on a rampage near Cary, attacking six people before police shot and killed the dogs, authorities said.

No charges had been filed Sunday, but McHenry County Sheriff Keith Nygren said it was being investigated as a crime scene.

Neighbors said the attacks started late Saturday afternoon when children going door-to-door for a fundraiser arrived at the home of Scott Sword, 41, who owned the dogs.

"I looked out the window, and I saw a young boy. The dogs were just jumping on him," said Debby Rivera, who lives three houses away.

"The screams were horrible," she said.

The pit bulls attacked the two children, and when the dogs' owner tried to stop them, the dogs turned on him and bit off his thumb, Nygren said. The boy's father also tried to protect his son and was attacked. The dogs also went after another neighbor.

"The scene sprawled over a couple blocks, it was a very chaotic scene," said Lt. Michael Douglas of the Cary Fire Protection District.

Residents threw rocks at the dogs and honked car horns to try to distract them from attacking before police arrived and shot the animals.

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