

Young Boy Mauled By Dog

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A brutal attack on a small child in Central Nebraska. It's a tragic incident that no family should have to go through.

Matt Fitzgerald, Christopher's dad said, "When I saw the dog come and he made a b-line for us, it pulled him clean off his bike, and it was basically chaos from there for me."

Young Chris Fitzgerald attacked by a pit bull at least twice his size. Now the family will never be the same.

"He's scared to go outside now I'm scared to go out without a can of mace to take my kids on a walk because I don't know where the next dog's going to come from," explains Matt.

Chris received about 80 stitches throughout his head.

"I was in shock when I first saw him but it really didn't kick in until the day after," says Tracie Fitzgerald, Chris' mother.

Felipe and Carmen Rodriguez of Lexington own the pit bull who wasn't chained up at all that night.

"Most of the time when they're little puppies they're nice dogs it usually takes a human to train them to be mean and aggressive," describes Dr. William Ohlmann, Owner of the Lexington Animal Clinic.

Officials say don't think all pit bulls are bad, but this dog may have a record of violence.

"The same dog has supposedly attracted 3 other children before Chris," Matt Fitzgerald added.

Police say the maximum that the dog owners can receive is a fine.

"A potentially aggressive dog or vicious I think they need to be liable," Matt Fitzgerald noted.

Young Chris' memory of the attack won't soon go away, but it may have been one safety precaution that saved his life.

"If it wasn't for him wearing his helmet I think the dog would've got a hold of him and it would've been a lot worse than it was," Matt Fitzgerald concluded.

Reporter's Notes by Jake Wasikowski:

- Carmen Alicia Rodriguez was cited for keeping a vicious dog unlawfully, no proof of rabies, and dog at Large.
- The pit bull to be euthanized in the near future. Right now the dog is being held for ten days to see if the animal has rabies.
- Christopher's helmet may have saved him because the bottom jaw of the dog went into his cheek and the top jaw sunk into the helmet. Had he not been wearing the helmet the animal could've clamped down on his skull and started to thrash.
- For more information on the Pit Bull Terrier go to:
<http://www.pitbull411.com/>
- To contact the Lexington Animal Clinic call: (308)-324-2411.