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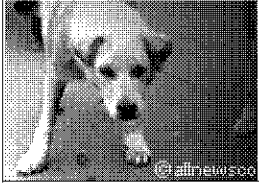
## Toddler Dies After Pit Bull Attack

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Charleston, SC - A North Charleston toddler mauled by a pit bull on Monday has died.

One-year-old Brian Palmer's death is renewing an ongoing debate about pit bulls, and the responsibilities of their owners.

The Dorchester County Sheriff's Office says the death has devastated Palmer's his family, but it's not changing how the case is being handled. The family could still face charges.

"The cause of death, as far as the coroner's office is concerned, is going to be something along the lines of lacerations to the airway. The manner of death is homicide," said Dorchester County Coroner Christopher Nisbet.

The Dorchester County Sheriff's Office says the one-year-old was attacked inside his home by a family dog.

The Palmer family says the dog got along with everyone, but Coroner Nisbet says the dog's actions were anything but friendly.

"There were a lot of puncture wounds, but the lacerations are a little more than puncture wounds," added Coroner Nisbet.

Nisbet admits pit bulls are often labeled as dangerous, but not all are. He believes the attack may send the wrong message.

"It's a sad day for the family, for the community, and animal lovers. I believe this is going to make that statement worse," added Coroner Nisbet.

First Sergeant Michael Miller with the Dorchester County Sheriff's Office says the family has a responsibility too.

"There could be several charges from where you investigate the dog and his condition, and what the situation was with the dog being in the home," said 1st Sgt Michael Miller.

Police say the dog has been put down, and they are awaiting test results to find out if the dog had any diseases.

The results are important because if diseases are found others in the home could be affected.

Four other children were in the home during the attack, but no one else was hurt.