



OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Infant Hospitalized After Attack by Family Dog

ATHENS, TENNESSEE – August 17, 2019 – On August 16, 2019, at approximately 4:00 pm officers were dispatched to a residence on Eastanallee Avenue in reference to a seven-month old child who had been bitten by a dog.

Officers were advised that a family member was babysitting the child and was lying on a bed. A family pet, that appeared to be a mixed-breed pit bull type dog, was lying on the bed as well, playing with a toy. When the child crawled to the dog and attempted to touch the dog's toy, the dog latched onto the child's head. The family member kicked the dog repeatedly, in order to free the child.

Family members rushed the child to the local emergency room at Starr Regional Medical Center. The child was transported to a larger hospital for treatment.

Athens Animal Control responded to the scene and took the dog into custody after the owner voluntarily turned it over to them. The Police Department informed the Department of Children and Family Services of the incident and is also conducting a thorough investigation into the circumstances surrounding the incident. This is standard procedure in serious incidents such as this and should not be presumed to indicate guilt or suspicious circumstances.

Chief Couch, of the Athens Police Department, said "this is obviously a very trying time for this family. They, and their child, will be in our prayers as they go through this tragic incident."

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