



NEWS RELEASE



City of Los Angeles Department of Animal Services
221 N. Figueroa Street, Suite 500, Los Angeles, California 90012 / www.LAAnimalServices.com

CONTACT: Public Relations Office
213.923-3440

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
October 31, 2008

NINE-MONTH OLD CHILD MAULED BY FAMILY PET

Los Angeles – At approximately 5:15 PM yesterday (Thursday, October 29th) on the 10,400 block of Newhome in Sunland, a nine-month-old child was bitten and mauled by the family's Great Dane mix. The child sustained puncture wounds to the head and a ruptured globe (eye). She was airlifted to Children's Hospital last night and is reported to be in serious condition following surgery. The 10-year-old dog was impounded by LA Animal Services and placed in quarantine.

This tragic incident serves as a reminder to parents and pet owners/guardians to always remain alert and attentive to interaction between small children and pets. While there is no more wonderful bond than that of a child with a family pet, sometimes a child's playful style may send mixed messages to the pet - sometimes with painful results.

Annually, LA Animal Services investigates hundreds of bite incidents with victims sustaining a wide range of injuries. Many of these injuries could have been avoided or the injury lessened if there had been quicker intervention or if prior training had been provided the dog and the family.

There are many excellent trainers, training guides and programs available to assist pets and their families with developing a long-lasting relationship, especially when a new family member arrives or when major household changes take place.

For more information on dog bite prevention visit "**About Animals: Dog Bite Prevention**" at: www.laanimalservices.com

For more information or assistance call LA Animal Services at
1-888-452LA-PET1/1-888-452-7381
(TTY Hearing impaired: 877-875-8205) or visit the website at www.LAAnimalServices.com.

We create happiness by bringing pets and people together!