

Dundee Boy Bitten by Rabid Dog

Yesterday a fourteen year old Dundee boy, Timothy Brian, was attacked by a dog which his parents fear was rabid. The family were on an outing in Crombie country park when the attack occurred. A border collie attacked Timothy as he and his older brother Mark (16) were fishing in the reservoir.

Mark told the Courier: "This dog just appeared out of nowhere and jumped on Tim. He didn't do anything to provoke it - he was just sitting there quietly fishing. The dog was all mangy and muddy and there was this froth all over its mouth."

Two other anglers helped Mark to drive the dog away, kicking and hitting it until it let go of Tim and ran away. Fortunately no-one else was bitten. One of the anglers, Ron Ralston told our reporter: "By the time we'd driven it off the lad had been badly bitten. He was covered in blood and this frothy slime from the beast's jaws."

Tim was rushed to hospital with severe bites to the face and arms. His condition is described as critical. Doctors have not yet confirmed if the dog is rabid, but are said to be 'taking precautions'.

Crombie Park is now closed whilst police, park wardens and the local vet attempt to track down the dog. "Rabid or not, this dog is a severe danger to the public and it is our duty to find and destroy it," said Detective Sergeant Jim Frazer, in charge of the operation. he refused to speculate on whether it was the same animal which has been responsible for attacks on livestock over the last few months.

On the subject of rabies, vet Doug Diack commented: "Rabies cannot get into the UK on its own. If the dog is rabid, it means some irresponsible fool broke quarantine restrictions when they went abroad with their pet."

There has not been a rabies outbreak in the UK since the First World War. If the disease has indeed returned to our country, it will mean an immediate curfew on all dogs and cats in the infected area, and the police will be responsible for culling all foxes and stray dogs.

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