

Dog owner apologises

SORRY: Leaves canine's fate to authorities

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THE owner of the dog which attacked a 7-year-old girl in Bandar Perda, here, on Sunday, has apologised to the victim's family and is leaving the fate of his dog to the authorities.

The dog owner, who did not want to be identified, said he deeply regretted the incident which left Dhiya Qairina Muhammad Nur Akmal warded with multiple injuries.

"I can feel the pain the victim and her parents are going through right now. This should not have happened to anyone, especially to such a little girl," he told the *New Straits Times*.

The man said he had been keeping the dog for about two years and did not expect it to break loose and attack the victim.

"I will accept whatever decision made by the authorities," said the dog owner who was earlier slapped with a RM500 fine by the Seberang Prai Municipal Council for not renewing

the dog's licence. He is also facing criminal charges after police said that he was being investigated for negligence.

State Veterinary Services Department director Dr Johari A. Bakar said the dog would be held for at least 10 days to check for symptoms of rabies.

He said that according to procedure, the dog would have to be put to sleep if it was found to be harmful but added they would have to observe the animal before making a decision.

The dog broke loose from its cage on Sunday evening and pounced on Dhiya Qairina, who was playing with a friend, in front of her house at Lorong Perda Timur 9 in Bandar Perda here.

The dog knocked the victim off her bicycle before mauling her.

The girl's father, Muhammad Nur Akmal Abdul Latiff, 47, who rushed to scene had to use her bicycle to chase the dog away.

Dhiya Qairina, the youngest of four children, was rushed to a nearby private hospital where she was warded for injuries to her back.