

Nine-month-old boy bitten by dog Tuesday at park

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A nine-month-old boy playing in Upper Lake Park was bitten in the face Tuesday night by a dog whose owner walked away after the incident, according to Port Washington police.

Young Henry Johnson is doing well, but his parents are frustrated by the incident.

“It really kind of angers me that he (the dog’s owner) wouldn’t stick around,” Henry’s father Keith said Wednesday. “You need to take some responsibility.”

Henry was treated at an urgent care center for a bite on his upper lip and marks on his nose and chin, his father said.

“His lip’s a little bruised, but he’s fine,” he said, noting the bite required medical glue but not stitches. “It’s just a little cut.”

Johnson said his wife Rebecca and Henry were in the park when a man walking two dogs — one on a leash and the other off leash — came up to them about 8 p.m. and began talking to his wife.

Mrs. Johnson told police that when the dog on the leash got within reach of her son, she told the man to watch the dog because Henry, who was crawling in the grass, likes to grab things, according to the police report.

The dog then bit Henry in the face, according to the report. As Mrs. Johnson picked her son up, she noticed the man was leaving the area. She called to him, telling him the dog bit her son, but he continued to walk away, police said.

She then caught up to the man, told him what had happened and showed him the blood on her son’s face, according to the report.

The man scolded the dog, then got into his car and drove off, police said.

Mrs. Johnson got the license plate number, which police traced to the 84-year-old Port Washington man, the report states.

“If my wife wouldn’t have had the sense to take down his license plate, we wouldn’t know if the dog might have had rabies or anything,” Mr. Johnson said.

When police spoke to the man, he told police he did not see any blood on the child’s face or other serious injury and didn’t think too much of the incident, according to the report.

The man, who admitted his other dog was running free at the time, was told he would receive a citation for having an unleashed dog, police said.

An investigation into the incident is continuing, police said.