

## **Local lawyer gets \$508K settlement in pit bull mauling**

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A Perkasi lawyer who specializes in dog bite litigation announced Monday that he secured a \$508,613 settlement in the case of an 8-year-old boy who was mauled by two pit bulls in 2010.

Attorney Thomas J. Newell represents Ajia Brown, a Connecticut boy who was visiting a York County residence with his family June 1, 2010. Ajia was playing outside about 9:20 p.m. when the dogs escaped from an enclosed pen behind the home and attacked him.

According to Newell, the dogs knocked the boy to the ground. One began biting his head and face, the other his lower torso. The boy's mother jumped on top of her son to save his life, Newell said. Neighbors came out and began hitting the pit bulls with garden hoses and a shovel.

Ajia and his mother escaped into the home. Police arrived a short time later. Officers shot and killed one of the dogs. The owner was able to subdue the second animal.

Ajia was hospitalized for eight days. Both of his ears were partially amputated and the top of his scalp was torn off. He underwent 17 surgeries and has medical bills in excess of \$500,000, Newell said in a press release. His mother also had significant facial injuries.

The defendant's homeowners insurance carrier tried to block the suit by requesting a ruling that it had no legal responsibility to pay for Ajia's injuries, Newell said in the release. As part of the settlement, the homeowner's insurance carrier ultimately agreed to pay its liability policy limit of \$500,000, as well as an additional medical expense payment of \$8,613.84.