

From: Dr A Majid Katme

## **Girl, 11, who had her lips ripped off by dog released from hospital after surgeons rebuild parts of her face... but her mouth is still sewed shut**

The 11-year-old Florida girl who had her upper lip savagely torn off by a friend's dog has been released from the hospital.

Jacklyn Tucker's mouth is still sewed shut after surgeons used a piece of her bottom lip to replace the tissue that was savagely ripped off when the animal suddenly attacked her.

However, he father says she is in good spirits and is on the road to recovering from the horrific incident.



Road to recovery: Jacklyn Tucker, 11, is seen here after a second operation to repair her face



Recovering: Jacklyn still has her mouth sewed shut. It will have to be opened during a second operation after her face heals more

Doctors at Joe Dimaggio Children's Hospital in Hollywood, Florida, say Jacklyn underwent a four-hour surgery to repair the damage to her lip, her left cheek and her nose after her body rejected the skin grafts doctors had previously attached.

She was released from the hospital on Friday after spending two and a half weeks in the hospital following the dog attack on June 19.

On Friday, she posted a note on her father's Facebook, acknowledging the support from the community, which has raised money for her medical care.

'Thank u for all ur help,' wrote, according to the Palm Beach Post.

Jacklyn, from Royal Palm Beach, was at a friend's house for a sleepover when she fell off the couch and the family's Jack Russell Terrier-English Bulldog cross pounced, ravaging her face.



Home: Jacklyn was allowed to go home after two and a half weeks in the hospital, though she will have to return later for a third surgery



Oxygen: Jacklyn underwent hyperbaric oxygen therapy to help her wounds heal, though her body still rejected the skin grafts

'I just kept my eyes closed,' Jacklyn said, according to the Post.

'I just laid there, and I closed my eyes, hoping the dog would just go away.'

The friend's father and owner of the dog told authorities he picked Jacklyn's lip 'off the floor' after the savage attack, and gave it to paramedics.

One hundred stitches later, plastic surgeons at St Mary's Medical Center in West Palm Beach attempted to reconstruct the girl's nose and lip using skin grafts.

She remained in the hospital undergoing two two-hour sessions of hyperbaric oxygen therapy a day, which helps her wounds heal by boosting the oxygen in her blood as well as blood flow to the injuries.

However, the operation didn't take and she had to be transferred to Dimaggio Children's Hospital, where doctors removed to grafts and started over from scratch.

Her doctor at St Mary's, David Rankin, told [WPBF News](#) Jacklyn's was the worst dog bite he'd ever treated.



Surgery: Plastic surgeons tried to reconstruct Jacklyn's nose, cheek and upper lip using skin grafts



Good spirits: Jacklyn, pictured before the attack, thanked the community for the support she and her father have received

'It's going to be weeks of initial acute recovery followed by potential multiple surgeries to get her back as normal as possible,' he told the station.

The dog, named Tanker, has been surrendered to Animal Care and Control and after a 10-day quarantine will likely be put down.

Jacklyn said she had been lying on the couch at her friend's house before Tanker pounced.

'She rolled off the couch. The dog was on the floor and started growling at her,' her father, Jack Tucker, who has been by his daughter's bedside since the incident, told WPBF News.



Tanker: The Jack Russell Terrier cross, pictured, is in quarantine for 10 days before probably being put down



Attacker: The dog, pictured, pounced on Jacklyn when she fell off the couch

'She got up and the dog jumped on her.'

Mr Tucker, a single dad who's had to take time off work as a tow-truck driver since the attack, said Jacklyn was in good spirits despite the traumatic experience.

'She keeps asking for people to come see her every day,' he told the Palm Beach Post. 'She's doing a lot better. 'She just needs to quit talking, though.'