



**ARIZONA HUMANE SOCIETY**  
Improving the Lives of Animals Since 1957

**For Immediate Release**  
November 6, 2007

## **AHS STATEMENT REGARDING DOG INVOLVED IN FATAL MAULING**

(PHOENIX) – Arizona Humane Society officials learned late today that “Kane,” the dog involved in yesterday’s fatal mauling of a 4-year-old Phoenix girl, was surrendered to its Sunnyslope Facility in March of 2007 and subsequently adopted out. However, records indicate that someone other than the family of Tori Whitehurst, the young victim, adopted the dog in April of 2007.

AHS officials are now evaluating all of its agency’s records, and are not certain how, or when, “Kane” ended up with the child’s family or what “Kane” experienced between the time he left the AHS and was taken in by the child’s family.

“We have no record whatsoever of the child’s family adopting the dog from our shelter and we do not know how this dog ended up with Tori’s family. We are turning all of this animal’s records over to the Maricopa County Sheriff’s Department to assist in their investigation of this tragic incident,” said Kim Noetzel, AHS spokeswoman. “We are heartbroken over this matter and extend our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Tori Whitehurst. We will cooperate fully with the investigation. At this point, there is no connection between our records and the victim’s family.”

The AHS learned Tuesday afternoon that “Kane” had been implanted with a Microchip at the time he was adopted in April 2007, and that chip matched the Animal Identification number assigned to him when he was surrendered to the AHS in March of 2007. When he was surrendered, the surrendering family said they had “no time” for the dog.

“Kane” was fully evaluated by three behaviorists at the AHS prior being placed up for adoption and showed no signs of arousal and no aggression whatsoever while in AHS custody.

“We do not know if the person who adopted “Kane” mistreated him, gave him away, or if he ran away and was taken in by a different family – we simply have no idea how he ended up with Tori Whitehurst’s family,” Noetzel said. “And, we have no idea why he attacked the child and, at this point, we cannot even speculate. When he left the AHS he was behaviorally sound and physically healthy.”

“Kane” was neutered; records indicate he was born in June of 2005 and that he was an American Bulldog/mastiff mix.

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