

Girl, 2, puppy found safe Tot spent night in Warren woods

By Walter Griffin
OF THE NEWS STAFF

Source:
Bangor Daily News
Wednesday, 07/05/2006
Edition: all, Section: a, Page 1

WARREN - When searchers found 2-year-old Katie Grant on Tuesday after she spent a night lost in the woods, she was curled up fast asleep on the ground with a 5-month-old puppy by her side.

The girl was the subject of a massive search after she disappeared around 7 p.m. Monday from her uncle's yard off Route 90. She was found about 8 a.m. Tuesday around a quarter-mile away by Tom Schultz, a neighbor.

She was covered with scratches, but otherwise was in great shape.

"Things worked out very well," Lt. Patrick Dorian of the Maine Warden Service said Tuesday. "She was scratched up just about every place where there wasn't clothing. Things came together really well for us. You always feel great when it turns out like this."

The daughter of Baron and Michelle Grant of Sanford, Katie was visiting the family of her uncle Lee Grant for the holiday. She bonded with the puppy the moment she arrived, and the two spent the day frolicking in the yard and running about.

Baron Grant was outside with his daughter, "cooking burgers," Dorian said, when his attention strayed. When he looked up, Katie, the puppy and an adult dog were gone.

The Grants searched the woods behind the house for an hour before calling the Knox County Sheriff's Department.

The puppy and the child "had been together pretty much the whole day," Dorian said. "I kind of assume what got her lost was following the puppy into the woods in the first place."

By nightfall Monday, 10 Maine Search and Rescue dogs and their handlers were pounding the brush in search of the girl. By morning more than 300 volunteers had arrived and had mounted a grid search of the area.

Two fixed-wing Warden Service aircraft searched, as did a helicopter from the Maine Forest Service. A National Guard helicopter with infrared sensing equipment also was put in service.

Dorian said the break came when Schultz, who lives a short distance down the road and is familiar with the woods around his home, volunteered to help. He said Schultz indicated he would work the area behind his home. At about 8 a.m., Schultz was on the cell phone saying he had found the girl.

"She was sleeping, and that's usual behavior for a little tyke," he said. "They don't seem to have the intense fear that adults have when they get lost. They'll often just sit down and whimper or fall asleep."

Dorian expressed thanks to the many volunteers who arrived to aid in the search. He said The Salvation Army was on hand to provide food and drinks.

The child was taken to Penobscot Bay Medical Center in Rockport. She was treated, given nourishment, and then released.

"We are all really thankful to the community," said Dorian. "Things went extremely well."