

Charges against dog owner dropped

October 12, 2011 9:39 PM

By Madeline Buckley The Brownsville Herald

Prosecutors dropped charges Tuesday against a Brownsville woman whose dog bit a toddler last month, according to court documents.

Esmeralda Cantu, 28, initially faced vaccination violations and a violation for owning a vicious dog, the documents said.

A 2-year-old girl wandered into Cantu's yard on D Street on Sept. 25. The dog, a collie mix, allegedly bit the toddler in the face when she tried to hug the animal.

The city dismissed all charges, but Cantu agreed to move the dog out of city limits. The collie is now in Edinburg.

Cantu was issued the vaccination violation because the dog had not received a rabies shot, but the violation was dismissed when the dog obtained the shot after the incident, Cantu's lawyer, John Shergold, said.

Shergold said the dog had no history of attacks, and the animal was properly restrained on Cantu's property. He said the toddler was not supervised by her parents.

"She feels sorry for the injuries sustained, however this wasn't her fault," Shergold said of his client.