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6/6/2007 12:00:00 PM

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Aiming For Stray Cat, Brother Shoots Sister, 10

Stan Maddux

For The News-Dispatch

COOLSPRING TOWNSHIP - A Coolspring Township girl is recovering from a serious gunshot wound delivered by her brother apparently by accident.

On Wednesday, May 30, sheriff's deputies were called to 2667 N. County Road 950 West, where Pamelyn Foldenauer, 10, a fourth-grader at Coolspring Elementary School, had been shot in the stomach.

She was driven to St. Anthony Memorial by her mother, Norma, and 18-year old brother, Jacob, police said.

According to police, Jacob Foldenauer told investigators a stray **cat** has been coming into the family's home for several months. He said that he and his father, Nicholas, had been trying to shoot the **cat** for several weeks.

That night, Jacob Foldenauer said his father spotted the **cat** and told him to "Try to get it," according to police.

In his report, LaPorte County Police Sgt. John T. Boyd said Jacob told him he retrieved a .22-caliber rifle from his parents' bedroom and went outside, loading the gun with a single bullet.

According to Boyd, Jacob Foldenauer said he was holding the rifle about 10 feet away from the family home when his sister yelled out to him from an open window inside a breezeway.

Jacob Foldenauer told investigators he was startled and must have jerked, somehow causing the rifle to go off. The bullet went through the exterior wall and hit Pamelyn in the stomach, who Jacob Foldenauer heard screaming and crying, said Boyd.

Foldenauer picked up his sister from the breezeway floor and began asking what was wrong then her mother raced over and determined her daughter had been shot, police said.

Norma Foldenauer told investigators she was in the kitchen and heard the rifle go off, knowing that her son was outside looking to shoot the **cat**.

LaPorte County Police Chief of Detectives Kevin Ulam said the shooting remains under investigation. He had no further comment, except to say, "We're working on it."


Reader Comments

Posted: Thursday, June 07, 2007

Article comment by: [Jenn McMillion](#)

Aiming For Stray Cat, Brother Shoots Sister, 10

This whole scenario is completely appalling. I am in no way anti-gun, but I



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cannot fathom a parent encouraging their child to shoot a stray animal. What sense does that make? There are humane ways to deal with strays that would have saved this family a lot of heartache.

Posted: Thursday, June 07, 2007

Article comment by: [Nicole Kintzele](#)



Aiming For Stray Cat, Brother Shoots Sister, 10

This is APPALLING. The father of these poor children should be ashamed of himself for encouraging such a heartless act. Shooting domestic animals, even if strays, only serves to desensitise children to violence. He's paying the price now that his poor little girl is in the hospital. I feel awful for that child and for the poor boy that shot her. I'm sure he's devastated. These are the reasons why we need to think a little more clearly about gun control.

Posted: Wednesday, June 06, 2007

Article comment by: [Kathleen Mason](#)

Aiming For Stray Cat, Brother Shoots Sister, 10

First off, I'm horrified that the parents of this boy are teaching him such a lack of respect for life- telling him to shoot a homeless cat because it is annoying him! Can't there be Animal cruelty charges brought against that horrible family for attempted murder? What if he only maimed the cat? Would they have rushed it to a vet? Of course not, they would have let it writhe around in pain, hence the reason for only one bullet. If he wants to claim that he's such a marksman that it would only take one bullet to kill the animal cleanly, then he wouldn't have "jerked, somehow causing the rifle to go off." Aside from the total disregard for the life of animals, a brief search shows that this family is located across from a very busy park where many children and adults gather for various sporting events. What if he had accidentally missed the cat and it hit someone's child playing little league or soccer? I'm ashamed and a little afraid to live in this area.

Posted: Wednesday, June 06, 2007

Article comment by: [Colleen Miltenberger](#)

Aiming For Stray Cat, Brother Shoots Sister, 10

I am not anti-weapons possession, but what sort of example does a father set for his children by not only encouraging shooting domesticated animals, but also participating? Acceptable uses for personal weapon use would be hunting game, target practice, and protection. I don't think any of those scenarios apply to the incident presented in the article. Perhaps with a bit of education regarding proper weapon uses combined with common sense, this accident never would have occurred.

Posted: Wednesday, June 06, 2007

Article comment by: [Angelique Peters](#)

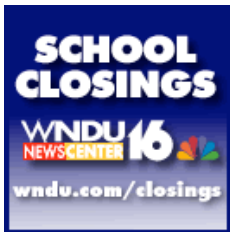
Aiming For Stray Cat, Brother Shoots Sister, 10

I think it would've been simpler to just call animal control to come get the cat instead of trying to shoot it. One more example of how cruelty to animals doesn't pay. I hope the girl recovers with no serious problems. My prayers are with her.

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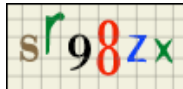
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