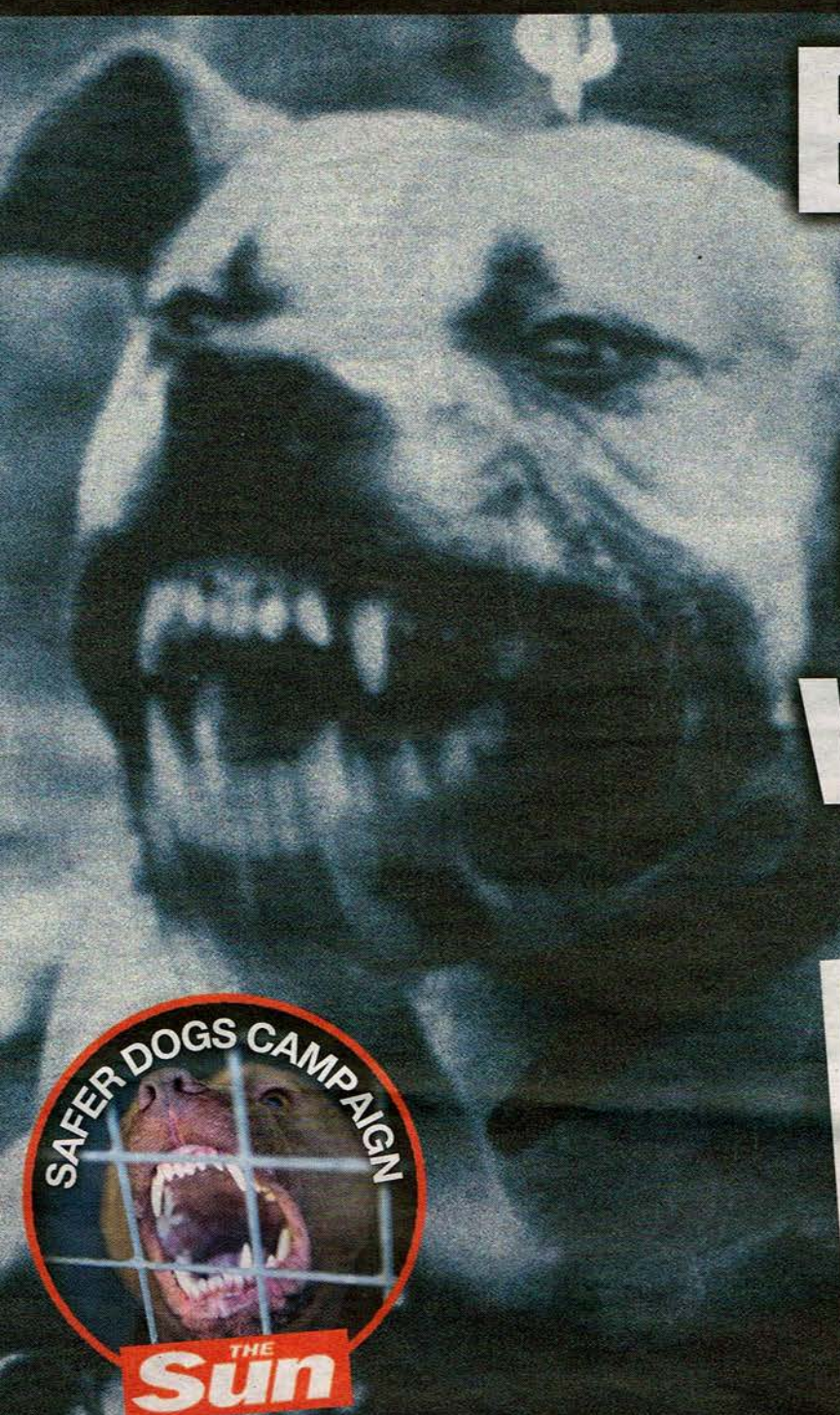


# Before open told us we Keiron... wasn't the



**ON THE MEND . . .** Anthony and Stacey are delighted with the progress son Keiron has made. *Inset right: The tot days after his life-saving op in June last year and, far right, how he looks today.* *Far left: Staffordshire bull terrier*



Pictures: SWNS

WHEN little Keiron Guess had his face torn apart by a devil dog, mum Stacey Drury suffered every parent's nightmare.

Watching her two-year-old son savaged by a neighbour's Staffordshire bull terrier last year, the mother-of-three thought he would not survive.

The sickening attack happened after Keiron had wandered into a neighbour's back garden.

Keiron's horrified grandfather, Dave, had to pull the crazed mutt off him - and the sickening scenes were witnessed by Keiron's five-year-old brother Mackenzie.

The toddler suffered appalling injuries, lost the sight in one eye and was left without a nose and ear. It took a ten-hour operation to save his life.

Police were unable to bring charges because the dog was in the owner's private garden - but the animal was put down.

Stacey and partner Anthony Guess, 26 - who also have baby daughter Holly-Marie - have backed our Safer Dogs Campaign since it launched last year in the hope it may prevent other devastating incidents.

Here, one year on, Stacey, 23, opens up her personal diary to AMANDA REVELL WALTON.

### TUESDAY, 5 JUNE, 2012

I'm in shock - this is too much to take in. Our gorgeous little boy is fighting for his life.

It's two days after the attack and his gorgeous face has been ripped to shreds. He's just had a **TEN-HOUR** operation to save his life - and to reconstruct his face.

They've had to put metal plates in place of his missing nose - and above and below his eye where there should be bone. They've had to amputate his ear and have given him a transfusion of two pints of blood.

Before they operated, doctors said we could say a quick goodbye as it might be the last time we saw our son alive.

I couldn't kiss his face - it wasn't there any more. I kissed his stomach and told him: "Mummy loves you."

They've had to put him into a medically induced coma to help his little body recover.

The doctors explained to us that skin from the top part of his leg has been used to replace the chunk which has been ripped out of his head.

### JUNE 6

Keiron has definitely lost the sight in one of his eyes.

Anthony and I are devastated. They're not sure if they're going to be able to save the sight in the other.

### JUNE 8

We've just been told the owner of the dog which attacked Keiron has signed a consent form to have it put down.

Legally no one can be held responsible for what happened to Keiron.

It's shocking, but at this moment in time I don't care about anything other than Keiron's survival.

### JUNE 9

I can hardly bring myself to leave Keiron's bedside. I nod off and wake up. That's when reality really hits me.

### JUNE 11

Thank God! Keiron's not brain-damaged. They've just got the results back from his scan.

### JUNE 12

Just days ago, Anthony and I experienced the worst moment of our entire lives. Today was the best.

Keiron's been brought out of his coma. He's off the critical list. Our little boy is going to live.

When Anthony's dad, Dave, walked on to the ward, Keiron shouted out: "Gramps!" I didn't know who to hug first - Dave, Anthony or Keiron.

I can't describe the utter joy and relief that Keiron can see out of one of his eyes. Anthony and I were so afraid the last thing he would ever recall seeing was that dog.

### JUNE 13

Keiron's brother, Mackenzie, went to see him today. He's only four but what he saw on the day of the attack was straight out of a horror film - only it was real.

Mum's told me he keeps asking: "Is my brother fixed yet?" When Mackenzie first saw Keiron just after his operation he wouldn't go near him.

This time Anthony told him: "Can you go and give your brother a kiss and a cuddle, please?" My heart was in my mouth as I watched him do as he was told. I felt very proud of him.

### JUNE 20

Keiron has been discharged from hospital. Since his first major op he's been back into surgery four times.

How such a little body can take so much is beyond me.

### JUNE 22

The dog which attacked Keiron has been put down, but there's still another Staffordshire bull terrier at



# ration, docs could kiss out his face re any more



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address. It's going to be too dramatic for us to go back to our old house, so we will stay with my mum.

**AUGUST 2**

up all night with Keiron. He's having terrible nightmares - waking up crying with sweat and screaming and thrashing about.

aven knows what he's reliving in that little head of his. He's also been having real bursts of anger - followed by sobs of real clinginess.

**SEPTEMBER 3**

enever I'm with Keiron and I spot that he's like an action replay. I automatically reach down to pick him up just as the panic starts to set in and he turns to me, reaching for my arms, screaming: "Dog! Dog! Dog! Dog!"

first I used to feel so angry that that little boy was so scared. Now I just feel incredibly sad when I see the fear in his little face.

**SEPTEMBER 15**

oved into our new home today. My mum's loads to be done, but it's ours.

**OCTOBER 15**  
We've just come back from a week in Minorca. Our first family holiday.

It was hard keeping Keiron constantly smothered in sunscreen because his skin is still so sensitive due to the scarring.

But for the first time since the attack we've been able to relax and have some fun.

**DECEMBER 2**

Another op. The surgeons are now working really hard to make Keiron's blind eye look as normal as possible so he won't need an artificial eye.

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

Watching Keiron and Mackenzie playing with their new toys, Anthony and I just looked at each other and smiled. We didn't need to say what was going through our heads.

Today could have been so different. There could have only been one sack of presents under the Christmas tree.

**JANUARY 18, 2013**

Our baby daughter Holly-Marie came into the world. I think Anthony and I feel very lucky - and very relieved -

we've got a healthy 7lb 3oz baby girl. Keiron and Mackenzie are so excited they've finally got to meet their little sister.

**JANUARY 30**

Keiron's come out of hospital after his TENTH operation.

Most of the ops he's had have been to drain fluid from his eye and to make it look as "normal" as possible.

The next lot of operations won't be for a while, which is a relief. They will try to minimise his scarring, reconstruct his ear, and stretch the skin over his scalp, so he won't be left with a bald patch, where the dog took a chunk out of his scalp.

His ear, bitten off in the attack (and found by an old man who put it in a hankie and gave it to the police), is now growing in the back of his head. It's amazing what they're doing.

**FEBRUARY 7**

We've just heard that all dogs under the age of three will now have to be microchipped. It'll be free, with charities funding the £35 fee.

Dog owners will face prosecution if their pet bites a postman (5,000 posties are attacked by dogs every year). It's a step in the right direction.

**FEBRUARY 28**

I realised today how protective Mackenzie has become of his brother. One of the other children at the school gates was staring at Keiron.

Mackenzie just walked up to him and said in a very matter-of-fact way: "A dog bit him!"

**MARCH 27**

I'm writing this having heard that a teenager called Jade Lomas-Anderson has been horrifically mauled to death

by a pack of **FOUR** dogs at her friend's house in Atherton, Greater Manchester. The police had to shoot dead the dogs, said to be Staffordshire bull terriers and bull mastiffs.

I am really upset. Anthony is angry and said: "Not again!" I don't feel angry. Just so sad.

This girl was only 14 - with her whole life ahead of her.

As with Keiron's case, the owners of these dogs cannot be prosecuted because they were on the owners' property. It makes me realise how lucky Keiron was.

We've been to hell and back, but at least Keiron's alive. At least we still have our son.

**MONDAY, JUNE 3**

It is now exactly a year to the day since the attack.

I don't think a day has gone by this past year when Anthony and I have not relived the horror of that day in some way.

I've had flashbacks of Keiron's bloodied and lifeless body in Anthony's arms as he carried him to the paramedics.

I'll never forget the sound of a woman's hysterical screams and realising they were my own.

For Anthony, it's the vision of Keiron's face - torn to shreds, a mass of "bubbles of red", no nose, eye ripped open, "like someone had taken a sledgehammer to my boy".

What the surgeons did at the Bristol Royal Hospital For Children was nothing short of a miracle.

*I'd love them to see Keiron now as I write this - grinning like a Cheshire cat, and giggling in unison with his big brother, Mackenzie, as they watch their favourite cartoons.*

## SUPPORT OUR CAMPAIGN

THE SUN'S Safer Dogs Campaign aims to:

- 1 Make owners accountable for their dog's actions.
- 2 Give police and dog wardens the power to issue warnings to owners.
- 3 Create a national registration system and microchip every dog.

Scaffolder Anthony says: "We totally support The Sun's Safer Dogs Campaign.

"We hope by telling our story it will make people aware that the dog laws in this country need to be changed.

"It was nothing short of a miracle that Keiron survived his attack but since then other people have been killed.

"This has got to stop. We've got to do something. This can't keep happening. These laws need to be changed - now. We all need to stand up and make those in power take notice. By signing The Sun's petition, this is one way of getting our voices heard."

To support the Safer Dogs Campaign, sign our petition at:

**THESUN.CO.UK**