

A two-year-old Wheatland child died from injuries received from an attack by a timber wolf, according to Platte County coroner Harley Prell.

Dusty Marie Redding, daughter of Leonard and Carolyn Johnke Redding Jr., died Saturday at DePaul Hospital in Cheyenne after suffering head, face and neck injuries. The incident occurred late Friday afternoon.

The animal belonged to Randy Prater, who is a renter on the Redding's property southwest of town. Prell said the animal was destroyed by Prater after the tragedy. It was chained up at the time the child came in contact.

After the attack, according to

Prell, the child was brought to Platte County Memorial Hospital by her parents where she was treated in the emergency room. It was determined to transfer her to the Cheyenne hospital due to the extent of her injuries. She was taken by the Wheatland Ambulance Service.

Since it is illegal to keep a wild animal as a pet in the state of Wyoming charges could be filed. Prell said, however, it was uncertain at this time if any action will be taken against the owner of the animal.

Services were held today at 10:30 a.m. in the United Methodist Church with the Rev. Virgil Lamm

Dusty Marie Redding

4-12-1980

Dusty Marie Redding, age 26 months, died Saturday, April 12, at the DePaul Hospital in Cheyenne.

She was the daughter of Leonard and Carolyn Johnke Redding, Jr. She was born on Jan. 15, 1978, in Cheyenne. She lived with her parents and brother on the family ranch in Slater until May of 1979. At that time they moved to their new home, five miles south of Wheatland. She resided there until the time of her death.

She is survived by her parents; her brother, Tony; her maternal grandparents, John and Aletha Johnke of Chugwater; and her paternal

grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Link Redding, southwest of Wheatland, and many aunts, uncles and cousins.

Funeral services were held at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, April 16, at the United Methodist Church in Wheatland. The Rev. Virgil Lamm officiated. Interment was in the Wheatland Cemetery.

Serving as pallbearers were John Redding, Steve Budd, Ronnie Johnke and Donnie Johnke.

A memorial has been established to the St. Joseph's Home for Children in Torrington. The Schrader-Prell Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

Killer wolf owner arrested

The owner of a timber wolf which fatally mauled a young girl was arrested last Wednesday and charged under Wyoming Game and Fish laws with illegally importing

a wolf into the State of Wyoming.

The game violation was filed against Randy Prater, 25. Bond was set at \$500 cash. Prater was released on bond the same day as his arrest. Prater's preliminary hearing has been scheduled for May 6 at 10:30 a.m.

Prater apparently obtained the wolf in Montana. The animal was reportedly involved in an incident earlier this year in Sheridan and Prater was advised then to destroy the animal, according to Platte County Deputy

Dusty Marie Redding on April 11. The girl died the following day in a Cheyenne hospital.

The wolf was chained at the time of the incident. However, the girl apparently got too close to the wolf and was bitten and clawed on the head, face and neck.

Prater was renting from the girl's family at the time of the incident.