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## Pet pit bull drags woman to safety

**Jeff Holmquist** **New Richmond News**  
**Published Friday, March 14, 2008**

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Pit bull dogs don't have a great reputation these days.

But a rural Star Prairie dog's heroic efforts may just give the breed a much needed public relations boost.

Cisco, a 102-pound, 4-year-old pit bull, was taken outside to relieve himself at about 11 p.m. Wednesday, March 5, by his owner's girlfriend.

Martha Sorrells was home alone at the time and knew the dog needed to do his duty.

But when Sorrells stepped on an icy patch in the back yard, she slipped and broke her

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Martha Sorrells gives Cisco a special treat as a thank you for his lifesaving action. Sorrells will be laid up for up to six weeks as her broken foot heals.

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right foot.

**“I just had on some thin sleep pants and a T-shirt,” Sorrells said. “Even if I yelled, nobody would be able to hear me from the back yard.”**

**As she began to cry from the pain, Cisco began to comfort Sorrells. She told the dog**

**to help her get home and the pit bull sprung into action.**

**“He knows quite a few words,” said proud owner Fred Rawson.**

**“He knew I was getting cold and he knew I needed to get back in the house,” Sorrells said.**

**The dog began pulling Sorrells by the leash toward the home.**

**“He just kept pulling hard,” she said. “It was really a heroic effort on his part.”**

**Once Cisco pulled the woman to the steps of the front door, Sorrells was able to use her hands to climb the three steps and get into the home.**

**“If it wouldn’t have been for him, I would have really been in trouble,” she said, adding that her boyfriend was at a friend’s house playing cards that night and she didn’t know when he would return.**

**She was very worried about frostbite and hypothermia setting in.**

**Once inside, Sorrells scooted to a chair and gathered herself. She was then able to call 911 for help.**

**She was taken to Westfields Hospital where she spent the night. She now wears a cast on her foot, and doctors expect the recovery time to last from four to six weeks.**

**“Pit bulls get a bad rap sometimes,” Sorrells said. “But it’s all in how you train them and raise them. He’s a very loving dog.”**

**Rawson said he’s owned three pit bulls over the years. While the breed can cause problems in some cases, he said Cisco is very playful and loving.**

**Cisco was rewarded with extra treats and chew toys following his heroic effort.**

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