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Investigators: Pit Bull Stabbed To Death While Defending Owner

Aiken County Investigators say this pit bull gave his life, to save his owners. Deputies say the dog bit a man trying to stab his owner with a knife. Maximus, the pit bull, ended up being the victim. Count on Joy Howe for the story.



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[Warrenville, SC—5-year-old Maximus was a huge part of Dwayne Wilkey and his family’s lives.](#)

[Dwayne Wilkey, Maximus’ Owner: “He had a good temper, he was a good dog, he loved kids...”](#)

[But Maximus gave his life....investigators say, to defend Wilkey’s last week.](#)

[According to incident reports, Wilkey’s brother-in-law, Richard Johnson told deputies he came to collect on an \\$80 loan.](#)

[Lt. Troy Elwell, Aiken County Sheriff’s Office: “There was some altercation between he and his](#)

brother, during the altercation, the suspect pulled a knife.“

Investigators say during that fight, Maximus, aware his owner was in danger, unlocked the kennel gate with his nose and attacked Johnson.

Officers say Johnson stabbed the dog...repeatedly.

Wilkey: “I watched him run over here and lay down.“

Lt. Elwell: “The pit bull was trying to defend his owner; he let himself out of the cage to go do it.“

Wilkey: “He’s my hero, he saved my life. He wouldn’t hurt nobody, he wouldn’t hurt nobody unless he had to, and if he hurt him, he needed it, he had to, that’s the only way I see it.“

According to police reports, Johnson claims Wilkey told the dog to attack him...but investigators say Johnson will have to prove his case in court.

Elwell: “in certain circumstances, I believe pit bulls can be used as weapons, but in this case, I believe that the dog was trying to defend his owner, but in circumstances, I believe that’s it’s up to a judge to decide for us.“

Wilkey is left with one family member in jail....and another gone for good.

Wilkey: “I loved my dog to death. He was my baby.“

Johnson faces several charges, including assault with intent to kill and ill treatment of animals. He’s being held at the Aiken County Detention Center on \$15,000 bond.