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SHREVEPORT, LA

Pit Bull Alerts Owner to House Fire

A type of dog that usually takes the heat in news headlines has become a hero for, literally, standing up to the heat. A pet Pit Bull, named Stormy, alerted her owner to a fire that broke out in the family's home early Wednesday. Kevin Cavanaugh, Sr., said, somehow, the dog broke out of a metal cage and ran into his bedroom, barking.

"Once I got up, I ran to the kids' room to see if my children were in their room."

Fortunately, Cavanaugh's sons had spent the night at their mother's home in Bossier City. He got out safely, but Stormy wasn't budging.

"She ran to the far back bedroom and got against the wall," he said.

Cavanaugh said he asked firefighters to rescue the dog, but they became leery when they learned it was a Pit Bull--a breed some people believe is extremely aggressive. Still, firefighters went after the dog, which they found unconscious.

"We did manage to get (her) out and revive (her)," said John Fulco, fire chief, District 4.

Firefighters used oxygen to bring Stormy back from the brink of death, but it may take her a while to fully recover.

"She had so much smoke in her lungs that she was throwing up so we had to take her to the vet," said Kevin Cavanaugh, Jr., the son of the man who escaped the fire. "She's a member of the family. She does just about everything that we do. She sleeps in the bed, jumps on the couch, chews people's shoes."

Now, Stormy's list of accomplishments also includes saving lives.



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