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# News & Views

Posted 10:27 PM February 20, 2006

## Dog bites marshal, Atlanta police arrest pet owner

By **Katie Robbins**

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February 21, 2006

ATLANTA -- An Atlanta man was arrested Friday on a warrant after the town marshal said the man's dog attacked the police officer.

Christopher Davis, 44, is charged with harboring a nonimmunized dog, cruelty to an animal, dog bite and criminal liability, all misdemeanors.

Atlanta Town Marshal Gary Rouch said that on the afternoon of Jan. 31 he saw Davis' Siberian husky walking unattended down Main Street. The dog "has a history of chasing down a woman who was walking her dog," Rouch said.

The dog returned to its home, 140 W. Main St., but started to leave again, the marshal continued. Rouch tried to put a leash on the dog but the animal turned its head and bit Rouch's hand.

"He nearly bit all the way through my hand and did bite through my index finger," Rouch said, adding that the dog wouldn't let go of his hand.

After freeing his hand, Rouch said the dog continued to act aggressively so the marshal shot the dog in its side with his .45 caliber revolver. The dog then went back into its yard.

Rouch said before he was bitten, he called the Hamilton County animal control officer, who tranquilized the dog and took it to the veterinarian.

The marshal said Davis was charged with cruelty to an animal because he would not give the vet permission to treat the dog.

The dog was treated for the gunshot wound, tested for rabies and taken to the Humane Society for Hamilton County for the remainder of its mandated 10-day quarantine.

Rouch said the dog didn't have rabies, but it hadn't been taken to the vet in more than a year.

The dog recovered from the gunshot wound and has been returned to

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Davis, who posted \$3,500 bail for his release from jail.

Rouch said Davis was ordered to put a fence around his yard to keep the animal in it. As of Monday morning, that had not happened, the officer said.

The town marshal was taken to the Indiana Hand Center after the incident, and he is going through physical therapy.

In June 2003, the humane society director accused Rouch of trapping stray animals, shooting them and burying them at the town's wastewater treatment plant. Rouch acknowledged then that he has set traps for feral cats, has kept some stray animals in cages at his home, sometimes feeds strays with money from his own pocket and has released wild animals, such as raccoons, but he would not confirm shooting any animals.

Fred Farley, who was a town councilor in 2003, said the council decided two dogs and five cats had to be destroyed over a 10-month span because the town's \$500 budget for animal control was not enough to cover the humane society's handling fee, which was \$147.37 per stray.

Call staff writer Katie Robbins at (317) 444-5549.

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