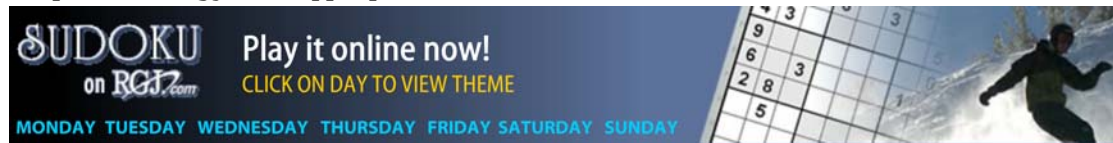


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Reno police investigating weekend dog bite incident

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Reno police are reviewing a weekend incident in which a dog from the department's canine unit bit a Reno woman's right arm.

"There is an internal review of the incident (to see) if there were any procedures violated, or if there were any training issues so this does not occur again," Reno police Cmdr. Ron Holladay said Monday.

The woman was identified by police as Patricia Clark, who Holladay said "attempted to pet" the dog, Ocean.

"He didn't chomp on her," Holladay said. "She surprised the dog. You get near the officer or near the dog, that's what they do. But it's the responsibility of the handler to protect the citizen."

The name of the officer handling the dog was not released.

Clark sustained a 4-inch-by-4-inch bruise and two puncture marks, Holladay said.

The incident was at Dick Taylor Memorial Park, where officers in the canine unit were giving a public demonstration with their dogs.

Holladay said this type of incident happens "very rarely" citing one other biting incident in the past year with another dog.

Ocean does not have rabies and is still in service.

"That dog doesn't have rabies," Holladay said. "Our dogs get regular checkups and shots."

Dogs in the canine unit stay in the homes of their handlers, Holladay said.

"They are current with their shots," he said. "If they were to exhibit signs or symptoms of rabies, we would know it."

The dog was on a leash held by an officer, who did not see the woman, Holladay said.

"The officer had his back turned at the time," Holladay said. "The dog got surprised. The dog didn't aggressively attack the lady."

Holladay said the officer was petting the dog at the time of the incident.