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Clifford woman saved from dog attack

By Brian Blair
Senior Reporter

A Clifford woman was attacked by her pet dog, but saved from serious harm when Clifford Town Marshal Charlie Deweese shot and killed the animal.

Becky Purdue Nordman, 53, said she had gone outside at about 3 p.m. at the family's home at 4651 E. Road 550N to move the kennel of the 125-pound male dog, part English mastiff and part Labrador.

"He had been so sweet yesterday," she said. "He was rolling in the straw like a little puppy."

But a moment later, he turned on her, bit her arm and backed her against the kennel, where she was trapped.

He later ripped off her shirt and left her bleeding.

"I didn't think he would have stopped until he killed me," said Nordman. "I said my prayers."

A neighbor and Clifford Fire Chief Ed Stone, the first emergency official to arrive on the scene, first tried to distract the dog, because an eight-foot privacy fence that was locked from the inside barred them from getting near Nordman.

Town marshal DeWeese eventually went around to the home's front door, hoping a family member could let him inside. When he got no answer, he broke the door's glass, unlocked the door and made his way into the fenced-in area.

When the dog came within three feet of DeWeese, he fired one shot that dropped the animal. Nordman told him to kill the animal because she didn't want the canine to suffer.

The second shot killed the animal.

Nordman had kept it for a 12-year-old grandson in Seymour.

Nordman was taken by ambulance to Columbus Regional Hospital where she was treated and released. She later returned to the hospital when her wounds wouldn't stop bleeding.

Fletcher

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