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# Cumberland police shoot dog

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CUMBERLAND — A police officer shot and killed a German shepherd dog last Wednesday evening after the dog attacked a 6-year-old boy and lunged at the officer.

The boy, whose name the police would not release, was transported to Landmark Medical Hospital in Woonsocket with bite marks on his elbow and buttocks. He was treated and released that night. Patrolman Daniel Lamoureux, the officer who shot the dog, was uninjured.

The dog's owner, James Marsland, 22, of Boyle Avenue, was a neighbor of the boy's family. He was not at home at the time of the attack and was fined an undisclosed amount by the town Department of Animal Control for failure to leash the dog and for having a dog that was a "habitual nuisance," according to the police.

The police say that on Dec. 12, the boy was walking from his house on Boyle Avenue to his grandmother's house down the street when the dog, which had apparently escaped from the backyard and was wandering up and down the street unattended, attacked him.

Officer Lamoureux responded to a call of an animal attack at about 5:02 p.m. The officer found the boy with his father and located the dog about 50 feet away.

While the officer waited for the animal control officer, the dog apparently ran toward the officer, unprovoked, in "an aggressive manner" while growling and barking, according to the police report. Lamoureux backed away, but the dog lunged at him, the report says.

Lamoureux then shot the dog twice in the chest. The dog momentarily fell to the ground before getting up to resume his attack, according to the officer. Lamoureux shot him four more times until the dog was dead in the road.

Police interviewing neighbors found out that the dog, which was 2½ years old, had bitten people in the past and was often loose in the neighborhood.

At least two other persons had complained to the animal control officer, the police said, but it is unclear what became of those complaints. (Calls to the town animal control office were not returned yesterday.)

The owner, who arrived on the scene later, apologized for his dog's actions, the police said, and confirmed that the dog was up to date with his vaccinations.

Wednesday's shooting was not the first time police officers had shot and killed a vicious dog. A dog loose in Diamond Hill Park over the summer was shot and killed by officers after park-goers complained that it was loose and aggressive.

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