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Dog attacks two outside residence in Beech Grove before police kill it

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Kendall Owens, T-H Staff Writer

Police killed a dog in the Beech Grove neighborhood Tuesday afternoon after it reportedly attacked a meter reader and then an animal control officer.



Dog attacks: The Forrest City Police Department is investigating an incident Tuesday that left two men, including the Forrest City Animal Control Officer, injured after a dog attack outside a home in Beech Grove. From left, Sgt. Cornell Taper, Officer Ruben Ivey, Lt. J.R. Kersey and Forrest City firefighter Samuel Pettus follow as FCPD Interim Chief Dwight Duch talks with animal control officer Jason Daniels after officers had to shoot the dog. No arrests have been made in connection with the incident. Photo by Kendall Owens

The Forrest City Police Department is investigating the incident which left the two men injured and the 100-pound dog dead.

The incident happened outside a residence at 336 Beech Grove Dr., when Shane Pester, 52, of Harrisburg, who is a meter reader, was attacked by the dog, which was an Akita. According to the police report, Pester drove himself to the emergency room at Forrest City Medical Center where he was treated for his injuries.

According to the report, animal control officer Jerry King was called to the scene, and as he attempted to tranquilize the dog, the animal, which was also tied to a leash, jumped the fence and attacked King, causing injuries to his leg and face. Police said officers were on the scene and were able to coax the dog away from King before shooting the dog as it charged



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at them. Police said the owner of the dog was not home at the time of the incident.

FCPD Interim Police Chief Dwight Duch said this morning that the incident was still under investigation, and no charges have been filed at this time. He also said that the discharge of the officer's weapon was in accordance with department regulations, but that the entire incident is still under review.

King was transported to Forrest City Medical Center by ambulance where he was treated and released.

According to an official with the Forrest City Animal Shelter, King was home this morning recuperating from his injuries. Animal Control Director Brooke Goodbar was not available for comment.

According to the Web site www.dog.com, Akitas are described as powerful looking dogs with a distinctive bear-like expression. They grow to 24 to 28 inches at the shoulder and weigh between 75 and 110 pounds. They are also described as a strong willed, instinctual and dominant breed not suggested for first-time dog owners, and they were originally bred for hunting large game in Japan. The Web site said that the breed can be unreliable around small animals, cats and other dogs, but are suitable for well-behaved, respectful children if raised with them. Adult-supervision was also recommended for instances when children and dogs interact.

The Web site also said that the animals are naturally protective and defensive of resources, family and property.

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