



## Officers shoot at lunging dog

Pair in backyard of Vanier house were checking out 911 call when animal attacked; investigation under way

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The Ottawa Citizen

*Sunday, November 11, 2007*

Police opened fire on a dog in Vanier Friday night after the animal lunged at two police officers responding to a 911 call.

The incident occurred just before 10 p.m., in the backyard of a home on the corner of Deschamps Street and Marier Avenue.

At least one shot was fired at the animal -- local residents said they heard several -- but the dog was not hit, and it fled the scene unharmed.

Ottawa police Sgt. Peter Couillard said yesterday that officers are entitled to use lethal force in protecting themselves from an animal attack.

"The laws in Ontario and Canada don't allow us to shoot to warn," Sgt. Couillard said. "If they were shooting, they were shooting to destroy the animal." He could not confirm how many shots were fired during the incident.

Just before the incident, Rick Glasner, 59, heard a noise in his backyard. Unaware that two police officers were in the yard investigating a 911 call, he opened the door on his back porch to see what was happening.

The dog -- a brown-and-white female boxer named Faith -- ran past him into the yard.

Mr. Glasner noticed the police officers as the dog lunged at them.

"I opened the door, (the dog) bolted after the female constable and the male constable," he said yesterday.

That was when at least one shot was fired. Faith took off.

The dog is owned by Gerry Thibault, 62, who is a friend of Mr. Glasner's.

Both men said yesterday that they didn't take issue with the fact the officers had fired in self-defence -- but they wondered why they had decided to approach the house through the backyard.

"They were justified in what they were doing," Mr. Glasner said. "(But) they should have knocked on the front door, rather than going in the yard." Mr. Thibault echoed that concern: "Why didn't they go by the front door?" Mr. Glasner said from what he understands, the officers received an unknown trouble call that related to his address -- but to his knowledge, no one in his residence called 911.

The two men found Faith wandering the streets several hours later. She was brought home and treated to some steak.

Police are investigating the circumstances surrounding the attack and the response of the officers at the scene.

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