



## Police fired 25 shots, woman in ICU after surgery

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November 23, 2007 07:27am

### **POLICE fired 25 shots to save a woman being attacked by two dogs after Taser stun guns failed to subdue the "rabid" animals.**

The 29-year-old victim was attacked when she jumped a fence into her mother's neighbour's yard at Mandurah, south of Perth, yesterday afternoon because she heard a puppy in distress.

The woman, from Paraburdoo in WA's north, was in a critical condition in hospital and lucky to be alive, police said.

The woman's mother screamed for help as the two bull mastiffs attacked.

Officers were called, three of them firing 25 rounds of ammunition at the dogs after Taser stun guns failed to subdue them, police said.

Nearby resident Barbara Mitchell ran to help after hearing screaming.

"I heard this lady singing out to her daughter," Mrs Mitchell said.

"She was crying out 'Somebody help me, they are eating her'."

The woman's mother and neighbours grabbed hoses and starting spraying the dogs.

"She was lying on the ground with her face down," Mrs Mitchell said.

"One of the dogs was really vicious."

The woman's mother tried to pull her daughter, who was visiting, back over the fence at one stage. But the dogs dragged her back into the yard, Mrs Mitchell said.

When police Taser stun guns had little effect on the attacking dogs, officers used Glock service pistols, firing 25 rounds.

"Both dogs received several gunshot wounds, one dog took five shots before it would drop," a police spokesman said.

Police killed one of the dogs and a council ranger later destroyed the other.

A third dog was removed from the yard by rangers.

RSPCA spokesman Robin Moore said inspectors had paid two visits to the dogs' house this week amid concerns a bitch with four pups was underfed.

"We left what we call a yellow sticker on the door, there were obvious signs the yellow sticker had been removed," Mr Moore said.

The owners did not contact the RSPCA so the dogs would have been removed from the property today, he said.

A bitch and two of the four pups were at a Mandurah veterinary clinic where one of the pups was being treated for a broken leg.

Medical staff at the Peel Health Campus told police the woman, who suffered serious wounds to her face, legs and body, was lucky to survive the attack.

She would have died within a couple of minutes had she not received medical treatment, a police spokesman said.

She was transferred by helicopter to Royal Perth Hospital, where she was today in a critical but stable condition following at least five hours of surgery.

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