

## Dog bites officer... rabies feared

### Pet could be put to death

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RYE — Rye Police are hoping to find the owners of a dog that bit one of their own early Friday morning.

If the owners are not located, the dog, a reddish Pomeranian, will have to be euthanized to test it for rabies. Neither police nor officials at the New Hampshire Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals could say if the dog is male or female, because the dog was too vicious to approach.

At about 6:35 a.m., police received a call about the dog being in the area of Perkins Road and Ocean Boulevard. The same dog has been reported loose since Oct. 8. The officer responded to the area to pick up the dog and take it to the kennel. When he picked up the dog, it bit through the glove he was wearing.

"Different neighbors between Perkins and Rock Roads had been reporting seeing it," said Police Chief Kevin Walsh. "One neighbor left food out and was able to corner it."

Walsh said a veterinarian had tried to scan the animal for a chip, but didn't pick one up.

"He has no collar, no license information or proof of rabies," said Walsh. "He looks in good condition but we don't know for sure and there's only a short time span before the injections are needed."

Walsh said the officer, who prefers to remain unnamed, must begin the series of painful shots within 72 hours of being bitten.

"He's going to start the shots now because we want to make sure we take all precautions," he said. "If we find the owner and there is proof of rabies vaccinations, he can stop. The vet examined the dog, but not fully because he's so mean. He bit through leather gloves. I had to use one that was thicker and went up to my elbow. Still he kept swinging around trying to bite."

For now, Walsh said the officer is doing well. The dog must be quarantined for 10 days. Anyone who knows the dog's owner is urged to contact the Rye Police Department at 964-5521 or 964-5522.