



## **BREAKING NEWS: Escaped inmate arrested in Owensboro**

### **K-9 bites wrong person during suspect chase**

By Gavin Lesnick  
Tuesday, February 26, 2008

An Evansville Police Department K-9 mistakenly bit a bystander while chasing a suspect late Saturday night, but police officials characterized it as a freak accident and not a sign of a problem with the dog.

The woman who was bitten by the K-9, 51-year-old Kimberly Masterson, suffered puncture wounds on her ankle and was treated and released from a hospital, said Evansville Police Department Sgt. Brent Hoover.

Authorities said the bite proved a bizarre finish to a pursuit that began as a domestic violence case.

Hoover, who supervises the K-9 unit, said officers initially responded to a domestic violence incident in the 1800 block of East Franklin Street, but found the suspect had run off.

Officer Nick Henderson and his K-9, Jery, began tracking the suspect through the area, following him to the 1800 block of East Illinois Street.

There, Hoover said the suspect — later identified as 32-year-old Nigel Daniels — tried to break into a house before being fought off by the resident inside, who was armed with a baseball bat. Minutes later, Hoover said Henderson caught up with Daniels and released Jery to make the apprehension.

But, with Jery in fast pursuit, Hoover said Daniels scaled a chain-link fence, which Jery apparently did not see in the darkness.

Meanwhile, Hoover said Masterson happened to be coming out of her house, which is right next to the fence. As she stepped out of her front door, Hoover said, she was only a few feet from where Jery plowed into the fence.

"The dog was dazed and the first thing he saw was her," Hoover said. "And he went over and grabbed her leg."

Hoover said the K-9 unit trains to be ready for distraction, but there was little they could do to prepare for circumstances as unexpected as Saturday.

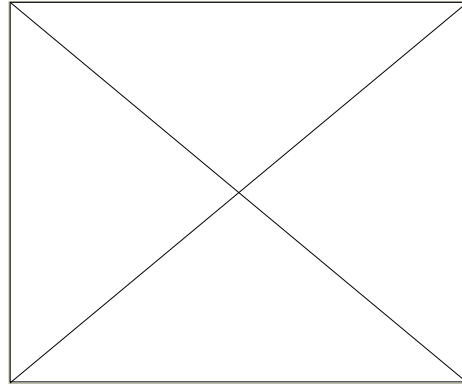
"You'd have a better chance of winning the lottery than re-creating this," Hoover said. "... It's just an unfortunate happening. ... It's just one of those fluke things that happens."

Evansville Police Department spokesman Cpl. Steve Green said he could only recall one other instance where a police K-9 bit an unintended victim.

"This is unusual," he said. "If the dog hadn't hit the fence, if the lady hadn't stepped out at that time, it wouldn't have happened."

Masterson did not return a message left seeking comment Monday, but Hoover said her injuries were minor and she was understanding of the incident.

He said Daniels was ultimately arrested when he returned to the house he had tried to break into. He was being held Monday at the Vanderburgh County Jail on preliminary charges of domestic battery, simple assault, public intoxication, resisting law enforcement and



burglary. Bond was set at \$10,000.



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