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Dog put down after attack on police officer

12:00a.m. 7th October 2008 | By **Kerryn Manifold**

A 65kg dog has been put down after it attacked a police officer and left him with a bite injury so deep it exposed a bone in his forearm.

The boxer mastiff cross attacked the officer as he arrived to check on the welfare of a resident at a home in Nambour.

It is understood the dog ran down the side of the house and through the front gate and attacked the officer as he stepped out of a police car around 8.30am.

The owner of the animal had apparently released the dog from its chain so it could go to the toilet.

A witness said the officer was lucky to be alive.

"If the family hadn't been there, it would have ripped the officer to shreds," he said.

The dog, which was not registered as a dangerous pet, was put down after the owner agreed to hand it over to the council.

Nambour police station acting officer-in-charge Dale Murphy said the officer suffered "extensive injuries" to his left arm and was taken to Nambour General Hospital.

He was still there late yesterday afternoon. Doctors were not sure if he would need to be admitted but described his condition as stable.

Senior Sergeant Murphy said the owner had been quick to respond to the attack and stopped the animal.

"Dogs aren't usually a danger so it was unexpected," he said.

A Queensland Police Union spokesman said the attack demonstrated the dangers officers faced each day.

"The union is constantly trying to raise awareness of the dangers of policing to the community and government," the spokesman said.

"Dog attacks are just one of the dangers, but how do you stop dog attacks?"

"I don't think anything can be done."

He said the biggest danger facing police was serious assaults, which numbered in the thousands each year.

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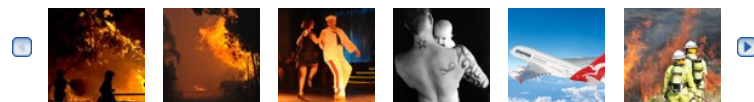
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