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Radford University Police Officer and student attacked by dog



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Radford University says Officer James Belcher, II was approached by two students around 2 a.m. Tuesday who were concerned about a stray dog running loose on campus.

University spokesman, Michael Hemphill says Officer Belcher then approached another group of students who were with the dog outside of Draper Hall and began talking to them.

That's when he saw one of those students had been bitten by the dog, who he describes as not aggressive or agitated at first.

He says the dog even sniffed his hand and let him pet it.

However, the dog then charged toward Officer Belcher and attempted to bite him as he was backing away.

He says the dog then placed its paws on his chest and tried to bite him in the face, neck, and chest.

Officer Belcher then pushed the dog off of him, at which point the dog bit him on his right thigh.

The University says Officer Belcher had no choice but to use physical force to get the dog off of his leg and eventually pulled his gun to fire one shot at the dog.

Another R-U officer arrived to help, as well as, Radford City police officers.

The dog's owner, who lives off campus, has been charged and the dog is being held at Radford City's Animal Control in the city's animal shelter.

Officer Belcher was taken to Roanoke Memorial Hospital where he was treated and released.

The University says he's expected to be back at work Friday.

The student who was also bitten was examined by RU EMS, but refused treatment.