

Officer shoots and kills dog that mauled woman

By [LINDSEY BAGUIO](#)

2009-12-17 16:47:40

LAGUNA NIGUEL - An Orange County Sheriff's deputy on Wednesday shot and killed a dog that had mauled an unidentified woman who was in the back yard of a Laguna Niguel home, authorities said.

The woman was taken to a hospital for her injuries Wednesday, said Lt. Andy Ferguson, the city's chief of police, who described the dog as vicious. The woman underwent surgery Wednesday, a friend said.

A neighbor had called police to the scene of the mauling.

"I'm very thankful that she's alive and that someone out there heard her yelling and called police because that saved her life," said Linda Mills, a friend of the victim. Mills, of Dana Point, spent time at the hospital with her friend Thursday afternoon.

"Her injuries are extensive and will require more surgery," she said. The dog that was killed was a Shiba Inu and around 7 years old.

The city's chief didn't have the woman's name, while her friends declined to identify her.

Gale Burke, a friend of the victim, said the woman was taken to Mission Hospital for surgery. She had dog bites on her arms and legs.

"She's doing OK but additional surgeries are scheduled," said Burke, who lives in Washington state.

Steve Bond, a neighbor on Via San Sebastian, said he noticed police responded to the call around 3:30 p.m. He was on his back patio when he heard the gunshot.

Bond went to his front yard to see what was going on and he saw his neighbors in the street.

"Everyone was blown away with the cops and their guns," he said.

Mission Viejo animal control officers responded to the scene to assist the sheriff's department, said Gail DeYoung, animal services manager.

According to the American Kennel Club's Web site, the [Shiba Inu](#) was developed for hunting in the dense undergrowth of Japan's mountainous areas. Adults on average range from 17 to 23 pounds.