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Wednesday November 4, 2009

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News :: Latest

Tuesday, November 3, 2009 6:08 AM CST

75 comment(s)

Trooper kills neighbor's dog in Elkhart

By The Associated Press

Authorities say they expect no charges against an Iowa State Patrol trooper who shot and killed a neighbor's dog at his Elkhart home.

Trooper Michael Current says in a report that he felt threatened by the dog, a 3-year-old black Labrador named Gus.

The Iowa Department of Public Safety's Professional Standards Bureau will review Current's actions as they would with any shooting involving a state trooper, but a spokesman for the patrol says initial reports show Current acted in compliance with department policy.

Current used his service weapon to kill Gus, who had somehow escaped from a fenced yard on Friday.

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Showing The Last 75 Comments On This Story

bubba wrote on Nov 4, 2009 5:50 PM:

" chief wrote on Nov 3, 2009 10:49 PM:

" Fortunately not many care what these boggers think nor will they have any real input in the resolution of this incident. "

Touche dude, Touche "

moldy wrote on Nov 4, 2009 5:18 PM:

" Cops kill dogs all the time. In this case there isn't enough info to make a rational conclusion but to me the cop shouldn't be held accountable. It's an unfortunate incident and it's a sad day for all.

But, in many other incidents like pot raids, police are instructed to shoot the pets first. This is for shock and awe, etc. Last year in Maryland the city Mayor's house was raided (wrong address) and the first thing the cops did was to shoot their family's two black labs. The mayor was forced at gun point to lie in the blood of the first killed dog. The other dog was running upstairs to get away when the cops shot that dog in back 2-3 times. Of course no "drugs" were found. "

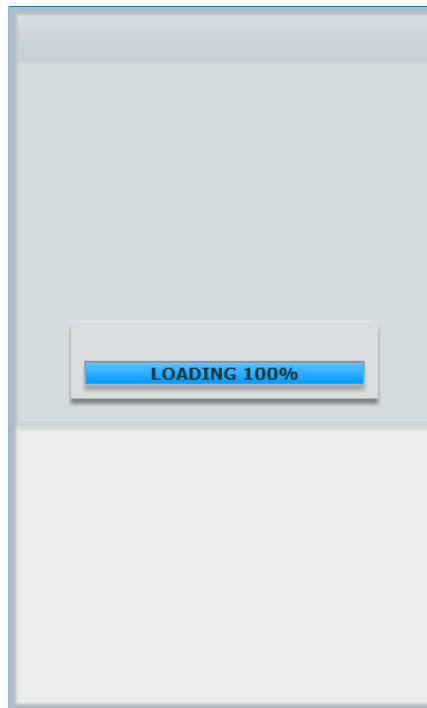
Chief wrote on Nov 4, 2009 3:22 PM:

" inyourface good question, actually MACE is a trademarked name for a product marketed by federal laboratories inc which used an active ingredient of CN tear gas which is some bad stuff with some side effects etc. Practically every LE agency today including the ISP use pepper spray active ingredient is Oleoresin Capsicum an extract of red peppers in an oil or water based carrier. a chemical compound that irritates the eyes to cause tears, pain, and even temporary blindness. It works well on dogs and bears The US Postal Service uses OC spray

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for that purpose (the dogs not the bears) The effects are immediate but are usually gone in 20-30 min and it is usually very safe with no lasting effects. Unlike a night stick or a Glock 40. Reading this it occurs to me that one of the few agencies that does not issue TASERS is the ISP these devices have proven successful against aggressive animals with no ill effect. Some large Zoos and animal control officers currently have them. "

shilo wrote on Nov 4, 2009 1:16 PM:

" Gee....so I'm not the only one who needs anger management.....88 pages of comments. And some even say the same thing I did. If threatened on your own property by an attacking dog defend yourself and your pet. And make sure your pets can't escape their pens. Or they could end up dead. And don't blame others for your own lack of responsibility. End of story. "

inyourface wrote on Nov 4, 2009 12:08 PM:

" Chief, I have a question. What happens to a dog when it is maced? Can they even see? I found the blogs on the KCCI website interesting, for anyone who wants to look at opinions of the neighbors and those in close proximity. "

shilo wrote on Nov 4, 2009 9:11 AM:

" NRA, spot on! It's about self preservation. Agression in any dog considered a pet cannot be tolerated. It's not fair to the human or the dog to allow it. This owner and his family claim the dog was a friendly dog and "town pet". (according to the story on another site.) Friendly dogs don't bare their teeth and growl. Ever. But aggressive unsocialized dogs do. So like you I am siding with the trooper. "

shilo wrote on Nov 4, 2009 8:57 AM:

" 3491?? wrote on Nov 3, 2009 10:46 PM:

" Never met a black lab I didn't like. They are a friendly breed. Troopers on the other hand can be good or bad. He did not have the right to take this dogs life under no circumstances. I wouldn't want this Barney Fife for a neighbor. "

I would. I'd know me and mine are safe from bozos. "

shilo wrote on Nov 4, 2009 8:51 AM:

" Arthur, excellent points. Posters keep interjecting their own scenerios into this story instead of accepting the facts. Which are that the dogs were aggressive. The trooper acted in self defense. Why don't they trust the troopers word? I find that curious? "

chief wrote on Nov 4, 2009 8:48 AM:

" CL Alyssa....you sound like you were actually there and saw the whole thing...eye witnesses are so handy to have they know the whole story "

shilo wrote on Nov 4, 2009 8:44 AM:

" CLAlyssa, are you saying if a lab and a Mastif were growling at you and your dog you'd just walk over and pick up your dog and turn your back on the threatening dogs? I wouldn't. I value me and my dog's life too much to do something that stupid. A dog growls for a reason. To show agression and to insite a challenge. I'd do what the trooper did. I'd call for back up and shoot the dog if he came at me.

Why is no one defending the innocent troopers pet that was on his own property minding it's own business? Just like the cat in CL was. You all called for capitol punishment on anything or anyone that threatened the safety and life of your child like pet. But now when some one DOES protect their own... you all turn on them. Make up your minds. "

CL Alyssa wrote on Nov 4, 2009 8:27 AM:

" I can only speak for myself, but I have to say the fact that I am upset with this story, even after reading the "whole" story, does not have anything to do with the fact that the shooter was a trooper.

I would have been upset if it was a trooper, John Smith from Wisconsin, or you, Shilo.

I'm sure the trooper acted on instinct, and I know there are aggressive labs. All I'm saying, is after reading the story, the dog was not being physically aggressive until after the officer yelled at and maced him. The officer acted too quickly, and unless things had escalated from growling, should have tried to get his own dog inside and waited for animal control.

The end.

Sorry that's not the answer you wanted to hear. "

Arthur wrote on Nov 4, 2009 8:16 AM:

" Dogs have two natures: 1. family member of humans and perhaps other pet dogs in that human family and 2. dog pack member. They can have two families. A dog running at large will often join other dogs running at large and form a pack with its own rules and attitudes that may be quite at odds with their other family identity. This lab was in the company of another dog that was challenging a dog chained up at the trooper's house.

WFTR wrote on Nov 3, 2009 7:07 AM: " Would I be able to get away with that? I don't think so. What if my mailman shot every dog that gets loose and comes at

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affected your
Christmas shopping
plans compared to past
years?

- I'm cutting way back on gift-giving
- I have to cut back a little this year
- I haven't thought about Christmas shopping yet
- I plan to spend about the same as other years
- I'll spend a little more than past years
- I'm going to help the economy by spending a lot more

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him/her? I think troopers carry mase don't they? It works on dogs too. "

I wouldn't blame a postal carrier for shooting a loose dog that was threatening him. The pepper spray that the trooper used only seemed to turn the lab's aggression against the trooper's chained dog toward the trooper. "

inyourface wrote on Nov 4, 2009 6:56 AM:

" Chief...I know you are an animal lover as I have seen your other blogs. I can appreciate the story of the farm dogs as sheep and cattle are part of the farmers income and they need to protect them. I just wished that this situation could have been handled differently. "

NRA wrote on Nov 4, 2009 5:49 AM:

" For the record, labs can be aggressive. I have had two family members bitten by two different labs, both in unprovoked attacks. One victim was a 12 year old kid, the other one an adult. The adult whipped around, grabbed the lab by the collar and gave him a good beating. Never had a problem with that dog again. In the other case, skin was broken, an officer was called, the dog was ordered quarantined for the prescribed number of days to observe for rabies, and it was lose again by evening. Good, responsible pet owners?. Right. I have also had other dogs attack my own dog when she was tied up, so I would not take that kind of threat lightly either. I'm not very tolerent of dogs who show aggression or run at large. I live in a rural area and too many dogs are dropped off and become a problem. Ever had your cattle chased? Big problem. Worse yet, have you ever seen sheep killed by dogs? Family pets aren't always what they appear to be. I'll side with the officer unless and until he's proven to be wrong. "

chief wrote on Nov 3, 2009 10:49 PM:

" Fortunately not many care what these boggers think nor will they have any real input in the resolution of this incident. "

3491?? wrote on Nov 3, 2009 10:46 PM:

" Never met a black lab I didn't like. They are a friendly breed. Troopers on the other hand can be good or bad. He did not have the right to take this dogs life under no circumstances. I wouldn't want this Barney Fife for a neighbor. "

chief wrote on Nov 3, 2009 10:44 PM:

" inyourface.....I'm an animal lover too and yet I understood the justification in the two cases I referred to where a farmer killed a dog that was killing his sheep and another situation where a dog was running cattle. No one even burped over those situations. I was not there didn't see what took place with the situation here, but many here who rely only on heresy are real quick to judge because the individual involved is a trooper. Fortunately not many care what these boggers think nor will they have any real input in the resolution of this incident. "

shilo wrote on Nov 3, 2009 10:43 PM:

" inyourface wrote on Nov 3, 2009 10:30 PM:

" Chief,
I resent the accusation. I have had nothing but respect for our officers and troopers. I felt especially bad about the canine officer from Clear Lake who died recently. I am more for the animal than for the person, though. That, I am guilty of. "

Then why not be blame the owner for allowing the dog to get out? If some one loves their pet they need to keep in under watch or safe at all times 24-7. If he's not home then he could have put the dog in the locked house. I am a hard time understanding why people are taking only the word of the owner. Of course he's going to brag his dog up. That's why I'm saying I'm waiting to hear BOTH sides before I hang the trooper. He is an officer 24-7. If he sees a threat why should he wait for another officer when he's qualified to handle it?
I'm for the animal too. That's why I keep stressing that people keep an eye on their pets. I've cleaned up after too many irresponsible ones like this pet owner. "

shilo wrote on Nov 3, 2009 10:33 PM:

" I hear ya, chief. :) They flock like birds. That's how they're so easy to detect and disturb. lol. "

inyourface wrote on Nov 3, 2009 10:30 PM:

" Chief,
I resent the accusation. I have had nothing but respect for our officers and troopers. I felt especially bad about the canine officer from Clear Lake who died recently. I am more for the animal than for the person, though. That, I am guilty of. "

FYI wrote on Nov 3, 2009 10:30 PM:

" Good shooting Trooper! If a dog is not contained like it is supposed to and is agresively threatening my family or anyone else. Please shoot fast and shoot straight. Ignore the rest of these blogs looking for something to complain about. You did the right the regardless if others like it or not. "

inyourface wrote on Nov 3, 2009 10:17 PM:

" Clear Lake Parent... Thank you for your rational comment. I agree.
Shilo, what I was saying was that you can't control a dog any more than you can control a kid all the time. They have a mind of their own and they are going to do what they want. You are taking this WAY out of context. The owner had his dogs in a fenced yard. The dogs got out. Obviously, the fence has worked for him up

until now. So, you are saying that every dog owner is supposed to have a cement block fence so they are SURE that the dog won't get out????? Because, technically, it could happen to anyone. And you are saying that this dog's owner wasn't responsible even though he had them in his fenced yard? He didn't "allow" it to get out of it's enclosure. You must be way more perfect than the rest of the world if your pets/kids don't do anything wrong. You sound very bitter...did you have a bad experience with a dog at one time? "

chief wrote on Nov 3, 2009 10:04 PM:

" shilo... you so accurately described this in an earlier post that if this was anyone other than a Trooper the most of these bloggers wouldn't waste the time. They seem to draw some vicarious satisfaction from assuming the worst about some one who represents an organization that has probably enforced some traffic infraction in their past. The fact is the DPS has internal investigation unit and they are very thorough. If there is wrong doing on the part of the trooper he will be held to a higher standard than these that post their opinion here. Over the years Troopers have been disciplined and even dismissed for wrong doing. I know of two situations in this area where a farmer shot a neighbors dog one was killing sheep the other was chasing cattle in both cases not a discouraging word was uttered.... The story is the Trooper; they really don't give a rat's rear end about the dog. "

Clear Lake Parent wrote on Nov 3, 2009 9:27 PM:

" Part of article from DMR "Current's neighbor, Justin Frampton, said Current had met Gus before. Frampton said he has a hard time believing Gus posed a danger to anyone.

"We never had a problem with him even getting upset with someone, let alone violent," Frampton said.

The dog had never before escaped from his fenced yard, Frampton added.

On Friday afternoon, Current came home to find Gus and an 8-month-old mastiff in his yard, the trooper said.

The report said Current called the Polk County Sheriff's Office to ask for help from an animal control officer. Before the officer arrived, Current yelled at the two dogs, who were growling at his dog. He then sprayed Gus with pepper spray, and Gus allegedly ran toward Current.

"At that time I feared for my own safety and drew my service weapon and fired one shot into the dog's chest," Current's report said. He could not be reached for comment Monday.

There were no witnesses to the incident, according to the sheriff's office.

Josh Colvin, animal control supervisor for the city of Des Moines, said his department recommends that people confronted by unfamiliar dogs try to get to a safe place and call animal control instead of dealing with the animals themselves. His officers try to let pet owners deal with their dogs before the officers step in.

When officers do respond, they use nonlethal means to catch dogs. Colvin said his officers carry Mace, but he believes it is effective only on some dogs.

Frampton's sister-in-law, Alexis Gibson, said Gus was not known to be aggressive.

"This dog was literally like the town pet," she said.

Frampton isn't sure how the dogs got loose, but he said a gate to the fence was pushed in and broken."

The dog was Like the TOWN PET...I doubt he was mean....I walk my dog a lot in Clear Lake and have had several dogs come at me...even if I owned a gun I would not shoot it. A swift kick will do wonders though and I would only do that if I first was bit or my dog was bit. I think being a person in this position he should have tried some other things before just shooting it. Glad I am not his neighbor. Sounds a little too quick too kill. I don't think the dog was armed! Maybe a dog treat or a yummy steak would have worked much better. RIP GUS! "

comment wrote on Nov 3, 2009 9:09 PM:

" Small town politics will have something on the agenda next time. I assume they have a council and mayor?? Wonder if the trooper serves on the council?

Been to Elkhart. SMALL town Iowa. Bedroom town for Des Moines. No stores or gas station. Just a church and post office. "

jojodemo wrote on Nov 3, 2009 8:54 PM:

" I'm sure the dog drew first. What a hair brained move for a trained professional. If you over react to a dog,what will you do with a teenager or ?? "

shilo wrote on Nov 3, 2009 7:30 PM:

" An those other posters. They like to dither. That's why they flame and why they're onboard all the time. They just aren't winning the debate this time. "

shilo wrote on Nov 3, 2009 7:26 PM:

" inyourface wrote on Nov 3, 2009 5:43 PM:

" Yes, Shilo, We'll have to wait and find out all the facts. I'm sure I would not want to be mauled by a dog, and if it came down to my life or the dog's, I would hope to win. However, dogs are territorial and don't know property boundaries and owners cannot be with their pets 24/7. The owner had his dogs in a fenced area, (being responsible) and they got out. It happens. I just think the trooper could have handled it differently, according to what we have heard so far. By the way, do you have any pets? Kind of like kids, they are not perfect and they are going to do things that are not acceptable, but killing them is a bit harsh. "

You're comparing a stray dog that is growling at people to a child wandering down the street?LOL.

So you're saying that if a stray dog bit your child or mauled your child you'd just shake the hand of the owner and say "that's ok I understand?" I doubt it. Anyone with common sense would be angry at the owner for allowing it to get out of it's enclosure. And it is NOT responsible for an owner to allow it. Yes I have owned pets. A black lab female, lots of pups from people who dumped them or needed

homes for the last of a litter, many cats that people let over breed and dumped. I fattened them up, had them vet checked and found loving responsible homes for them. Any other questions regarding my mentality?
Commenting and judging are 2 different things. "

shilo wrote on Nov 3, 2009 7:13 PM:

" Anger management? lol. Who says I'm mad? I'm responding to posts directed at me and asking posters why they choose to hang someone based on little evidence. Most of them are the ones who are angry at the trooper and they don't even have the entire story. I'm asking that they wait till all facts are in. "

inyourface wrote on Nov 3, 2009 6:40 PM:

" Ghostrider...Yes, I think Trooper and Shilo need anger managment classes. I think she and "My Thoughts" must be related, as they are always re-posting everyone's elses comments. "

JB Johnson of Britt wrote on Nov 3, 2009 6:25 PM:

" This is to easy
The trooper's first name is

Michael.

And what was quarterback dog killer Vick's first name?

Michael

So in today's hyper PC guilty by association world he is a dog killer. I don't know why anyone did not point this out. All people who have a first name of Michael hate dogs. "

Ghostrider wrote on Nov 3, 2009 5:49 PM:

" Shilo
People are commenting on this story as reported by the GG. The vast majority on here agreed based on the "initial short report". Instead of letting them voice their opinion you are re-posting all of their posts and then slamming us/them. All of us can see what ever one else posted. To go through all that work to point out repeatedly what they say and cut into people, you may want to check that anger problem. This is a forum for commenting on GG stories. I don't think anyone here needs a congressional hearing or hire Dick Tracy before typing a post regarding a small town news story. So switch to decaf and relax. "

inyourface wrote on Nov 3, 2009 5:43 PM:

" Yes, Shilo, We'll have to wait and find out all the facts. I'm sure I would not want to be mauled by a dog, and if it came down to my life or the dog's, I would hope to win. However, dogs are territorial and don't know property boundries and owners cannot be with their pets 24/7. The owner had his dogs in a fenced area, (being responsible) and they got out. It happens. I just think the trooper could have handled it differently, according to what we have heard so far. By the way, do you have any pets? Kind of like kids, they are not perfect and they are going to do things that are not acceptable, but killing them is a bit harsh. "

shilo wrote on Nov 3, 2009 5:22 PM:

" Ghostrider wrote on Nov 3, 2009 1:41 PM:

" Shilo We are commenting on the story, based on what was in the story. Based on the GG story, there was no aggression. The GG reported what the professional stated. No where did it say the trooper reported an attack. So based on incompleated story of the GG We are commenting on the story. This GG story did not show cause based on the poor reporting. It didnt make sense to almost anone reading it, Based on the story!! Read Lonetrees update on the story. Lonetree appears to be a better investigator than the GG "

Poor reporting? Whar stopped you from going to those sites? I think the GG online site posts what comes over the wire. I always go to the web site of the local news on story. With the computer we can now find info ourself.....
Commenting and judging are 2 different things. "

shilo wrote on Nov 3, 2009 5:01 PM:

" inyourface wrote on Nov 3, 2009 2:21 PM:

" Bubba, Thanks for the info...Go to KCCI.com The whole story, so far anyway, is on there, along with a video clip. The dog (actually two dogs)somehow got out of the fenced yard while owner was at work. Trooper came home and saw his dog who was chained up in back yard getting barked and growled at. Trooper then went to call animal control who said it would be awhile before they got there, then he went back out, macing the dogs. One left, but Gus stayed. I have to agree with the owner on this one, as he stated, why, if trooper was in a safe place while calling animal control, and felt threatened by dog, would he go back out where he didn't feel safe? Doesn't say if trooper's dog was being harmed, but didn't sound like it. Lot of questions to be answered.

Your last line says it all.

Lots of questions need to be answered yet. For instance.

A. What's the history of this dog being loose? The owner is ultimately responsible for the dog's escape. So he bears some responsibility here.

B. What was the dog's usual temperament. Some are very docile with owners but very threatening to strangers.

I'm not taking any sides until ALL facts are in. But I will lean toward the trooper's side because he and his dog were the victims on their own property. The owner is an irresponsible person because he allowed his dog the access to escape. So

he loses some credibility in my eyes. "

shilo wrote on Nov 3, 2009 4:52 PM:

" LM girl wrote on Nov 3, 2009 1:47 PM:

" I have an ex that is very threatening does that mean I can shoot him? LOL!! All jokes aside. This is terrible. I don't care how threatening a dog is I would never shoot him. I think this trooper needs some psychological help. And is this trooper going to shoot to kill if he feels threatened by a driver he pulls over. Sounds to me this guy is trigger happy. The state of Iowa needs to seek help[for this guy before he has a chance to shoot again. "

He needs help????!!!!LOL!

You're saying that if a pit bull (for instance. because you said "dog". You didn't specify poodle or which type....) charge you and you has a gun you wouldn't use it. You'd stand there and do what? Give him a big ol' kiss? LOL! "

inyourface wrote on Nov 3, 2009 2:21 PM:

" Bubba, Thanks for the info...Go to KCCI.com The whole story, so far anyway, is on there, along with a video clip. The dog (actually two dogs)somehow got out of the fenced yard while owner was at work. Trooper came home and saw his dog who was chained up in back yard getting barked and growled at. Trooper then went to call animal control who said it would be awhile before they got there, then he went back out, macing the dogs. One left, but Gus stayed. I have to agree with the owner on this one, as he stated, why, if trooper was in a safe place while calling animal control, and felt threatened by dog, would he go back out where he didn't feel safe? Doesn't say if trooper's dog was being harmed, but didn't sound like it. Lot of questions to be answered. "

chief wrote on Nov 3, 2009 2:10 PM:

" Interesting how a bunch of people who were not there didn't see the incident first hand can take a few written lines from a reporter who got the story from another paper and make so many assumptions about what actually happened and what should have been done. bet the DPS internal affairs investigators won't be interviewing this group of experts "

LM girl wrote on Nov 3, 2009 1:59 PM:

" Isn't it illegal to discharge a weapon in city limits? "

LM girl wrote on Nov 3, 2009 1:47 PM:

" I have an ex that is very threatening does that mean I can shoot him? LOL!! All jokes aside. This is terrible. I don't care how threatening a dog is I would never shoot him. I think this trooper needs some psychological help. And is this trooper going to shoot to kill if he feels threatened by a driver he pulls over. Sounds to me this guy is trigger happy. The state of Iowa needs to seek help[for this guy before he has a chance to shoot again. "

Ghostrider wrote on Nov 3, 2009 1:41 PM:

" Shilo We are commenting on the story, based on what was in the story. Based on the GG story, there was no aggression. The GG reported what the professional stated. No where did it say the trooper reported an attack. So based on incompleated story of the GG We are commenting on the story. This GG story did not show cause based on the poor reporting. It didnt make sense to almost anone reading it, Based on the story!! Read Lonetrees update on the story. Lonetree appears to be a better investigator than the GG "

shilo wrote on Nov 3, 2009 1:38 PM:

" Sounds all state troopers should be wary of convicted OMVI people. Especially those who have ESP or are phsyhic and know details of dog attacks and the history of the dog / owner others don't know.

And next time my neighbors dog charges me I'll just say "down boy". That oughta work. lol.

And if my neighbor "allows" his dog to run loose I'll just give him a shoulder to cry on when it attacks someone and they shoot it. After all he's just a dummy that isn't smart nor responsible enough to control his dog. sheeeeeeeesh. Sure glad I stick to drinking soda pop. "

goldenthroat wrote on Nov 3, 2009 1:22 PM:

" I repeat, in a socialist state, which our country is now, the DNR, PATROL,TOWN COPS, have unlimited control with no oversight! The owner was lucky he was not shot as well! I am sure he looked threatening after his dog was killed "

iamright wrote on Nov 3, 2009 1:12 PM:

" It's time to rein in the Storm, Im sorry, Iowa State Troopers. A law enforcement officer shooting his neighbor's dog? He didn't know how to call animal control? He had no mace? This Rambo wannabe is a loose cannon who needs to be fired before he kills someone and sets the state of Iowa up for a major lawsuit. I hope his neighbors take him to civil court. I hope the judge owns a dog. "

griffon49 wrote on Nov 3, 2009 1:08 PM:

" I'm not commenting on the trooper's behavior or condoning it in, but on Labradors. I have a lot of experience with all breeds of dogs, and yes, I have known several Labradors that have been aggressive towards people and other dogs. The problem is even worse in other parts of the country where they have been poorly bred. "

Bud wrote on Nov 3, 2009 12:59 PM:

" One can only imagine what would happen if "John Q. Private Citizen" did this----
---and it wouldn't be good. The Iowa State Patrol is OUT OF CONTROL !!! "

bubba wrote on Nov 3, 2009 12:58 PM:

" You're not commenting on the "story". You're deeming the trooper "unjustified" based solely on little detail. You claim the story doesn't prove the dog was aggressive. It doesn't prove it "wasn't" aggressive either. So why are some "passing judgment on the trooper" based on "no details"? "

what I gathered from the incident report: (your opinion may vary) the lab was under the deck growling "with" current's dog. he maced the lab, then and only then the lab came up the deck toward current "appearing aggressive"

maybe he was maced and wondered what was going on "

momof5 wrote on Nov 3, 2009 12:52 PM:

" I knew of a blk lab that was so aggressive it went thru a glass window at someone. ANY breed of dog can be aggressive. Some it's nature, some nurture. "

JB Johnson of Britt wrote on Nov 3, 2009 12:49 PM:

" If that had been a deer the DNR would have issued him a ticket. I "feel threatened" when I see a deer pop up out of a ditch. "

bubba wrote on Nov 3, 2009 12:48 PM:

" The best story so far has got to be on the kcci 8 site with the incident report on .pdf.

I wasn't there, but coming across strange dogs on my property even if growling, I'd try talking to them first. "hey buddy" "where's your people?". not "kicking the deck railing" which is just escalating the the situation.

"chained my dog out in the yard"

What's that quote about if you want to see a persons disposition, look at how they treat animals? "

JB Johnson of Britt wrote on Nov 3, 2009 12:44 PM:

" make you wonder if a guys leaves blew in his yard, cut down and burn his tree? "

escaped from iowa wrote on Nov 3, 2009 12:43 PM:

" I hope this "comboy" will be the first casualty of the state Public Safety budget cut. Sounds a little trigger happy with a short fuse. Don't get stopped by this guy on the roadways. "

shilo wrote on Nov 3, 2009 12:43 PM:

" Ghostrider wrote on Nov 3, 2009 11:12 AM:

" Shilo We are commenting on the story.

no where in the story did it mention that the dog attacked or was aggressive at all toward the trooper. If it had, the trooper would have stated he was attack or the dog lunged at him, etc. That is about the first thing out of a law enforcements mouth is the subject made some type life threatening move or an aggressive advance to justify this use of force. The trooper's own words in the report were "I felt threatened" but did not mention a reason for it. You or I might make a statement like that, but a professional law enforcement officer, trained in deadly force and testimony? Again, we are just commenting based on the story, complete or not. "

You're not commenting on the "story". You're deeming the trooper "unjustified" based solely on little detail. You claim the story doesn't prove the dog was aggressive. It doesn't prove it "wasn't" aggressive either. So why are some "passing judgment on the trooper" based on "no details"? "

Ghostrider wrote on Nov 3, 2009 12:42 PM:

" Thanks lonetree.

Good job with the follow up!

That helps this make a little more sense. One would think that might have been an important piece of information to get before printing this story in the GG. "

daddys_girl wrote on Nov 3, 2009 12:34 PM:

" I don't know where to being. Like every one is saying there has to be more to this story. A family dog does not just run at some one with the intent to bite or attack. An abused or taught to be mean family dog will. A dog that has been abused by a male will. The point to all of this is I had a black lab rott mix. That dog was brought up around kids in a loving home. The city water dude in Meservey Iowa said he came out of his back door and my dog came running at him growling. So he shot and killed him. Come to find out the guy just didn't like dogs. What happened out of it? I got charged with dog at large, which consist of a fine and court cost. The city water dude didn't get nothing. I was in the wrong for my dog getting out because the city water guy let him out of my house when he went in to fix some thing in my basement. This happened over 7 years ago I highly doubt that any thing has changed since then. "

lonetree wrote on Nov 3, 2009 12:29 PM:

" In the Des Moines Register it did say that the dog ran at the officer. We had a dog here several years ago, a shot over its head and into the ground behind it did

NOT deter it. When it was approaching our house growling my husband shot it. We later found out it was the neighbors dog. He understood what had happened but we felt awful. Take the time to read the rest of the story in the Des Moines Register "

daddys_girl wrote on Nov 3, 2009 12:18 PM:

" So does this mean if I "feel Threatened" by "trooper" Michael Currents dog I can shoot it? "

JB Johnson of Britt wrote on Nov 3, 2009 11:16 AM:

" I guess the kids won't TP his house!

You would think a round into they ground would have scared the dog. "

Ghostrider wrote on Nov 3, 2009 11:12 AM:

" Shilo We are commenting on the story.
no where in the story did it mention that the dog attacked or was aggressive at all toward the trooper. If it had, the trooper would have stated he was attack or the dog lunged at him, etc. That is about the first thing out of a law enforcements mouth is the subject made some type life threatening move or an aggressive advance to justify this use of force. The trooper's own words in the report were "I felt threatened" but did not mention a reason for it. You or I might make a statemnt like that, but a professional law enforcement officer, trained in deadly force and testimony? Again, we are just commenting based on the story, complete or not. "

shilo wrote on Nov 3, 2009 10:42 AM:

" I wonder if this man wasn't a "trooper" but just the "neighbor guy/ lady" ...how many of you would then consider the man "innocent until proven guilty". Instead of "guilty till proven innocent". NONE of you were there. NONE of you know the actual dogs habits. You're just passing juddgement on the trooper based on personal experience with a lab and your neighbors dog. For all we know this dog and owner may have been an on going nuisance and the dog had been vicious acting to humans all the time. But you've all deem the trooper guilty. I don't think you feel bad for the dog. You just don't like troopers. Hope none of you ever do jury duty....
I'm not for shooting animals as I stated on other topics. But if an animal is attacking I think anyone is justified in saving their own life. Any dog can be vicious if trained to be. Even labs.
Deeming someone "guilty" based on personal opinion and not fact is scary.
Would you want that charge aimed at you? "

Ghostrider wrote on Nov 3, 2009 9:59 AM:

" I have been around animals all my life and seen about every kind and size of dog nip or bite and or growl with aggression, but has any one on here ever seen a Lab be aggressive, I never have. - and a neighbor the dog is probably familiar with. come on!!! "

Rider wrote on Nov 3, 2009 9:25 AM:

" What would happen if the dog catcher shot every dog that was running loose. If I had done this I would be fined for animal cruelty and discharging a fire arm in city limits. Above the law?? "

bubba wrote on Nov 3, 2009 9:20 AM:

" Yup, I'm having trouble with this story as well. Felt threatened? was the dog blocking your way to the door of your house that you brought your gun from?

Water hose all put up for the winter?

This is the same kind of junk as when a trooper says "he almost ran me over when I jumped in front of his car" or "I blocked the way with my patrol car and he rammed me going 60 mph"

"for officer safety you'll have to do blah de blah" Well if you are so worried about your safety why don't you get back in your little car and leave me alone? "

CL Alyssa wrote on Nov 3, 2009 9:04 AM:

" I'm hoping there is more to the story than is stated here... personally, I have a lab -- and he will run, tail wagging, ears flapping, full speed at ANYONE, just to jump up and lick them on the face.

I hope no one feels threatened by him, especially if they have a gun...

If my neighbor's dog is out, I put my dog in, and let my neighbor know the dog is out... however, I suppose, if the neighbors dog is out, foaming at the mouth, knawing on my arm, and threatening to rip my throat out, I might shoot it... "

bphynn wrote on Nov 3, 2009 8:56 AM:

" I'm gonna have to consider moving to Iowa. With this guy on the Patrol shooting labs, gotta be a safe place. Wonder how he does with the Pit Bull and Rotties? If this guy has that much of a fear of a lab, he will probalby cower in a corner should an armed assaitant confront him. "

goldenthroat wrote on Nov 3, 2009 8:53 AM:

" Folks, we are in full fletched socialism, the trooper is a tool of the man, he can say and Do whatever he wants, he will answer to knowone!! "

swish wrote on Nov 3, 2009 8:39 AM:

" It seems knowing a labs personality, the only threat to the officer would be getting licked with affection, but I suppose this dog could have been raised in an unfavorable environment,leading to an undiserable nature. "

lonetree wrote on Nov 3, 2009 8:05 AM:

" The Des Moines Register does have more information on this incident but you have to search for it. It states the trooper arrived home to find this dog and another dog growling at his dog, he yelled at them to no avail and then he pepper sprayed this dog. The dog then ran toward the officer. "

skeeter16 wrote on Nov 3, 2009 8:01 AM:

" A lady living behind me has a Lab and it got out the fence the other day and ran into my yard. I guess I should of ran in and got the gun ans shot him. He was running at me.
There better be more to this story. This just does not sound right at all. Did the dog come after him or just running around. My Dog runs at people all the time when they vome over. He wants to play, not get shot. "

lonetree wrote on Nov 3, 2009 7:48 AM:

" Talk about creating bad blood between neighbors and bad PR for the State Troopers! Unlike the CL cat this dog was off his property, but there has to be a lot more that this story is not telling. Wonder if Elkhart has a newspaper and if there is more in it. "

billybob wrote on Nov 3, 2009 7:42 AM:

" Hmmm. Weird. "

WFTR wrote on Nov 3, 2009 7:07 AM:

" Would I be able to get away with that? I don't think so. What if my mailman shot every dog that gets loose and comes at him/her? I think troopers carry mase don't they? It works on dogs too. "

glbrdr wrote on Nov 3, 2009 6:46 AM:

" So the next time this Trooper feels threatened buy the smallest of things he can just whip out his gun and shoot it?? There is more to this story than they are telling us SURPRISE SURPRISE!! "

clgal wrote on Nov 3, 2009 6:29 AM:

" Felt threatened? Your average neighbor would call you and let you know your dog was out, not whip out his gun and shoot your dog. I hope there is more to this story-did the dog actually come at him and try to attack him? I'm sure Gus was a much loved pet-real neighborly of you trooper Current. "

mc wrote on Nov 3, 2009 6:18 AM:

" Somethings NOT right about this story! "

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