
Posted on Thu, Sep. 22, 2005

Officer shoots charging dog, police say

LOOSE ANIMAL KILLED IN FOSTER CITY

By Chuck Carroll
Mercury News

A local police officer fatally shot a charging dog Wednesday in what the Foster City Police Department described as the first such incident in the Peninsula city's 34-year history.

An officer was called to 800 block of Comet Drive at about 1:49 p.m. by a resident who afraid to leave her house because an 11-year-old bull terrier was sitting on a porch she shares with a neighbor.

As the officer approached the door, he noticed the dog get up, with the hair on the back of its neck raised in an aggressive manner, according to a police statement. The dog then ran at the officer, who shot the animal twice. The dog had gotten close enough to leave saliva on the pant leg of the officer's uniform.

The dog belonged to a neighborhood resident. City records show no previous problems with the dog. The police department is investigating the incident, but indicated preliminary evidence indicates the unnamed officer acted properly, according to the statement by Chief Craig Courtin.

Courtin reminded residents that dogs must be kept on a leash in public and that dog owners are responsible for ensuring their pets can't roam the streets or attack people.

Contact Chuck Carroll at ccarroll@mercurynews.com or (408) 920-5206.

© 2005 MercuryNews.com and wire service sources. All Rights Reserved.
<http://www.mercurynews.com>