

https://www.komu.com/news/midmissourinews/city-of-sturgeon-officer-acted-within-his-authority-when-shooting-killing-dog/article_b206c27c-1930-11ef-aa65-ab4f0f270f99.html

City of Sturgeon: Officer 'acted within his authority' when shooting, killing dog

Stephanie Southey, KOMU 8 Digital Content Editor
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The City of Sturgeon says one of its police officers "acted within his authority" on Sunday when he shot and killed a 13-pound dog that appeared to be "injured, sick and abandoned."

The Shih Tzu mix, according to its owner, was blind and deaf.

The city posted to Facebook on Thursday, saying officials reviewed the dispatch report and body-camera footage from Sunday's incident.

"The city believes that the officer acted within his authority based on the information available to him at the time to protect against possible injury to citizens from what appeared to be an injured, sick, and abandoned dog," the post said. "The dispatch indicated that the person calling in did not want to be contacted, and had reported that the dog, though not in her view dangerous, was injured, maybe blind, and had mud and dried blood in its fur. The dog's strange behavior appeared consistent with the dispatch report of an injured or possibly sick dog."

Sturgeon's original statement, posted to Facebook on Monday, said the officer "put down" the dog because the officer feared the dog may have had rabies.

The woman who claims to have called Boone County Joint Communications, who wished to remain anonymous, says she submitted a complaint about the incident. According to the complaint, she said she told the dispatcher the dog was "not aggressive at all." Many neighbors also described the dog as "friendly" when KOMU 8 visited Sturgeon on Tuesday.

The dog's owner, Nick Hunter, shared a video with KOMU 8 News of his interaction with police officer Myron Woodson, who shot the dog.

In the video, the officer is heard saying, "I don't enjoy shooting dogs... I am sorry this happened."
The officer said the dog appeared sick.

Hunter can be heard asking, "So you're putting them [the dog] out of its misery?" The officer then replies, "What am I supposed to do we don't have freaking animal control?"

A petition with more than 1,700 signatures calls for the police department to remove Woodson from service.

The City of Sturgeon says it will be sending all officers to Boone County Animal Control for training and education, "in hopes that this unfortunate situation does not occur again."

KOMU 8 has submitted a Sunshine request for Woodson's body-camera video and dispatch records.

MORE INFORMATION



Sturgeon residents react with concern after police officer shoots, kills 13-pound dog

Sturgeon police officer 'puts down' blind dog, claiming rabies concerns

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