



**Wounded former police dog euthanized
Published on Saturday, November 24, 2012
in the South Florida Sun-Sentinel**

A five-year-old police dog that was retired after being wounded in the line of duty was euthanized Friday after being shot several times during a home burglary on Wednesday, according to the veterinarian who tried to save him.

"Drake" survived the shooting and was flown on Friday morning to Gainesville where a team of veterinary experts conducted a battery of tests, Dr. Ken Simmons said.

The German Shepherd's injuries included broken limbs, wounds to his forehead and jaw, and damage to his esophagus, he said.

"We found a large piece of his esophagus deep in his chest that was rotting," Simmons said. "It was clearly a devastating injury."

The bullet wound to Drake's neck severed one of the small arteries that feed [blood to] that part of the esophagus and there was nothing that could be done to replace the blood supply or the dead tissue, he said.

"It was really frustrating too because everything else was coming along really well," Simmons said. "He survived, he had a transfusion, we got his leg fixed, his jaw fixed, we removed a big [unrelated] tumor from his abdomen that was benign, and he was doing good."

If it had not been for the wound to Drake's neck, Simmons said he might have survived the shooting.

"He was progressing nicely," he said.

Drake was put to sleep at 6:15 p.m. Friday but a full necropsy was being performed to gather evidence for a potential trial.

A 16-year-old suspect was arrested on Wednesday and charged with armed burglary and felony cruelty to animals. He was already on probation for burglary and grand theft, records showed.

Two more suspects were being sought after a break-in Sunday at Florida Highway Patrol trooper Bobby Broody's home near West Palm Beach, according to Palm Beach County Sheriff's detectives.

Broody was not home at the time but Drake started barking during the break-in and was shot several times before the suspects ran away, investigators said.

Police K-9 euthanized after surgery
Published on Saturday, November 24, 2012
on the Palm Beach Gardens-WPBF (ABC)

GREENACRES, Fla. — A hero police K-9 unit was euthanized Friday after being flown to Gainesville for emergency surgery.

The K-9 unit was shot multiple times after thwarting a robbery attempt at the Palm Beach County home of a Florida Highway Patrol trooper. A new complication arose in Drake's recovery on Thursday, as veterinarians found fluid around the dog's lung, indicating a wound or an infection that hadn't been detected before. A bullet may have nicked his esophagus, creating the deposit of fluid. Drake, a German shepherd, was shot four times on Sunday when three boys broke into the Greenacres home. A 16-year-old boy already on probation for burglary and grand theft has been charged with armed burglary and felony cruelty to animals in connection with the case. Drake's vet, Dr. Ken Simmons, has a pilot's license and owns a small plane. He was scheduled to fly to the University of Florida School of Veterinary Medicine, his alma mater, where a CAT scan and emergency surgery were performed.

Retired K9 Drake has been put down
Published on Saturday, November 24, 2012
on the WPEC News 12 Palm Beach County

GREENACRES, Fla. - A retired police dog that was shot several times during an attempted burglary has passed away.

Drake, a five and a half year old German Shepherd, was euthanized about 6:15 Friday night at the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine in Gainesville.

A Lake Worth veterinarian, Dr. Ken Simmons, loaded Drake in his plane and flew him to Gainesville Friday morning so the dog could undergo a CAT-scan.

Simmons says the outlook for Drake was not very good. He says because of damage to his esophagus Drake needed complicated, risky surgery that would've put the dog through even more suffering. After flying Drake to Gainesville, Simmons flew back to south Florida Friday afternoon.

Doctors at the University of Florida discussed Drake's condition with Dr. Simmons by phone. They decided, after conferring with Drake's owner, that the best choice was to put him to sleep.

"I feel a deep sense of sadness that I couldn't assist getting this dog Drake back to his feet again where he could continue to live a normal life, and I let down, or I feel like I let down a lot of people who were lookin' for this dog to make it," Dr. Simmons said.

Drake was shot four times last weekend during an attempted break-in at his owner's home.

A 16 year old boy is under arrest in the shooting, and two more juveniles are being sought.

Drake's owner, Florida Highway Patrol trooper Bobby Boody, sent us a text message Friday night. He says after a necropsy Saturday in Gainesville, Drake's ashes will be brought to south Florida. There will not be a public funeral.

In the text message, Boody says, "I can not thank the public enough for the overwhelming response to this incident. The outpouring of support from everyone has been tremendous. Everyone has been more than generous both financially and with their kind words. I could never express the true appreciation I have for all those who showed concerns. Thank you all so very much."

The dog's story received extensive news coverage.

Dr. Simmons says his office got at least 100 calls and emails about Drake. Some were from as far away as The Netherlands, Canada and Germany. He estimates people donated about \$15,000 to pay for Drake's vet care.

Ex-police dog shot during burglary
Published on Friday, November 23, 2012
in the Bradenton Herald

WEST PALM BEACH -- A former police dog is fighting for his life after being shot while protecting his owner's West Palm Beach house from burglars.

Florida Highway Patrolman Bobby Boody said his 5-year-old German shepherd Drake is struggling after surgery for several gunshot wounds.

The Palm Beach Post reported that a 16-year-old suspect was arrested Wednesday. He allegedly told investigators that he and two friends targeted Boody because they thought they would find guns and money in the trooper's house. The teen allegedly confessed to shooting Drake. He is charged with felony burglary with a firearm and cruelty to animals. The two friends are being sought.

When Boody returned home after Sunday's burglary, he found Drake shot. He loaded the 100-pound dog into his car and sped him to the animal hospital.

Vet may fly former police dog shot in burglary attempt to Gainesville for emergency surgery
Published on Friday, November 23, 2012
in the Palm Beach Pos

Drake, the former police dog clinging to life after being shot at least four times during an attempted burglary, may be flown to Gainesville for emergency surgery Friday morning, his veterinarian said Thursday.

A new complication arose today, possibly making the trip necessary, said Dr. Ken Simmons, owner of the suburban Lake Worth animal hospital where the 5-year-old German shepherd has been treated this week.

Fluid was discovered around the dog's lung, indicating either a wound or an infection that hadn't been detected before. Simmons said he suspects a bullet may have nicked his esophagus, creating the deposit of fluid.

"It could be a hole or a nick," said Simmons, who operates Simmons Veterinary Hospital on Lake Worth Road. "If it just a nick, it could heal by itself, and if by tomorrow morning we see him improving, there may be no need to go to Gainesville."

But if he feels it is necessary, Simmons — a private pilot with a Cessna 206 — says he plans to fly to University of Florida School of Veterinary Medicine, his alma mater, where a CAT scan and emergency surgery can be performed. Simmons has been in touch with authorities there about the case.

"Right now we feel we have a finger in the dike," Simmons said. "but we want to do all we can to save the dog. He's a fighter, an unbelievable fighter."

Drake was shot late Sunday when three juveniles broke into the suburban West Palm Beach home of his owner, Florida Highway Patrol Trooper Bobby Boody.

Palm Beach County County sheriff's investigators took a 16-year-old male into custody late Wednesday. The teen, whose name was not released because of his age, is facing charges of burglary while armed with a firearm and felony cruelty to animals. A sheriff's spokesman said Thursday the other two juveniles involved were still at large.

Investigators tracked the teen down because he is wearing an ankle monitor. He is on probation through the Division of Juvenile Justice for burglary and grand theft. He confessed to being the shooter and told investigators his group knew the house belonged to a law-enforcement officer and targeted it because they believed there were guns and money inside.

“He had no remorse,” Detective Philip DiMola said. “I asked him, ‘Did you think about that dog today?’ He said no.” Staff writers Julius Whigham II and Sonja Isgar contributed to this story.

German shepherd shot several times when intruders broke into state trooper’s home in critical but stable condition
Published on Friday, November 23, 2012
in the Palm Beach Post

Drake washed out after a short career in law enforcement — “He didn’t like looking for drugs,” a former boss said — but last weekend, his bravery was on display. The 5-year-old German shepherd did not back down when pressed to defend his owner’s suburban West Palm Beach home. He was shot at least four times for his bravery.

On Thanksgiving morning, Drake was in critical but stable condition after extensive surgery. Veterinarian Dr. Ken Simmons, owner of the Lake Worth animal hospital where Drake is being cared for, said a new complication had arisen in the past hours further endangering the dog.

Fluid was discovered around Drake’s lung, indicating an infection that hadn’t been detected before. Simmons said there was no visible wound in the chest area and speculated that one of the other bullets that had hit the dog had possibly taken a route that was now causing that infection, but that hadn’t been confirmed. Simmons said his medical staff was constantly draining the fluid to keep it from building up.

Apart from that he said Drake’s temperature was normal and he was resting comfortably.

“He’s fighter,” Simmons said the dog’s tenacious fight to live, “an unbelievable fighter.”

His owner, Florida Highway Patrol Trooper Bobby Boody, is holding on to hope that the dog who became a perfect fit for him will make a full recovery.

Wednesday evening, Palm Beach County sheriff’s investigators took a 16-year-old male into custody in connection with the shooting. The teen, whose name was not released because of his age, is facing charges of burglary while armed with a firearm and felony cruelty to animals

Investigators tracked the 16-year-old down because he is wearing an ankle monitor. He is on probation through the Division of Juvenile Justice for burglary and grand theft.

Detective Philip DiMola said the teen confessed to being the shooter. He told investigators he and two friends — also juveniles — knew the house belonged to a law-enforcement officer and targeted it because they believed there were guns and money inside.

“He had no remorse,” DiMola said. “I asked him, ‘Did you think about that dog today?’ He said no.”

Officers were still trying to find the other two juveniles.

Boody had just finished a shift late Sunday when he pulled into his driveway and noticed things amiss — including the absence of Drake’s persistent bark.

He opened the door to his house on a bloody, chaotic mess.

“Quite honestly, I expected to find the dog dead,” Boody, 36, said Wednesday afternoon.

Instead, Boody found Drake on the floor beside his bed. “He was bleeding profusely and when he saw me, he attempted to stand,” said Boody, who lives alone and had to hoist the 100-pound dog into his car and speed him to the nearest emergency vet clinic after alerting authorities to the crime.

A day later, Drake was transferred to Simmons Veterinary Clinic where he underwent hours-long surgery.

The wounds indicate Drake was shot at close range, said Simmons. One shot cracked the bone of the dog's brow, tearing a hole through his tongue, another bullet broke his front leg and yet another went through his hind quarters.

The teen in custody told investigators that the dog walked into the master bedroom and that he fired at the animal out of fear, DiMola said. The dog whimpered and cried, but did not back off, prompting the teen to fire again, DiMola said.

It appears Drake made a valiant stand at the house, Boody said.

"He's a tough dog — that's for sure," Boody said. "I'm confident that he'll recover."

Drake worked for awhile as a patrol dog with another trooper. But when it became apparent that drug sniffing wasn't his thing, he had to retire. That's when Boody, a former handler in the department, stepped forward.

"He needed a place to go, so I took him in," said Boody, a trooper since 2001. Despite Drake's early reputation as a difficult personality, the two hit it off well, Boody said: "He needed a strong personality."

It appears Drake was both tenacious and lucky. The dog was born on July 7, 2007, or 7/7/7, Boody noted.

Luck will not, however, cover the bills for the dog's surgery. Simmons said the hospital would cover some of the costs, but the final bill is still likely to be thousands of dollars. Already, officers have dropped in to contribute cash to the cause, he said.

Boody's boss, FHP Sgt. Randy Kraus, reflected on Drake's short tenure: "He didn't like looking for drugs ... but he's still got it in him.

"Once a cop, always a cop."

If you'd like to help with vet bills, please contact:

Simmons Veterinary Hospital
4975 Lake Worth Road
Greenacres, FL 33463
(561) 439-3220

**K-9 Drake update: Retired police dog may be flown to Gainesville to undergo tests
Published on Friday, November 23, 2012
on the WPTV NBC 5**

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. - K-9 Drake, the retired police dog shot at least four times earlier this week during a break-in at a Florida Highway Patrol trooper's home, may have to be flown to the University of Florida in Gainesville on Friday to undergo tests to determine the source of fluid in his lungs, according to Veterinarian Ken Simmons.

Dr. Simmons, owner of Simmons Veterinary Hospital in Greenacres where Drake is being treated, told WPTV NewsChannel 5 he suspects the fluid may be coming from a hole in the esophagus caused by one of the bullets that hit the 5-year-old German shepherd.

Simmons, a private pilot, says he would fly Drake to the University of Florida School of Veterinary Medicine so he can have a CT scan that would determine whether the dog's esophagus is perforated. Depending on the results of the CT scan, Drake could undergo emergency surgery in Gainesville, he said.

He said that if he notices that the dog is improving, he may not need to fly him to Gainesville.

"I'll decide in the morning," he said.

A 16-year-old armed burglary suspect was arrested on Wednesday, and two others are being sought, in the Sunday evening break-in at Trooper Robert Boody's home near Jog and Belvedere roads, investigators said.

Boody was not home at the time but Drake, who lives with Boody, started barking during the break-in.

"When I initially saw the scene at the house I initially assumed that the dog was going to be dead," Boody said. "I was relieved to find him alive."

One of the suspects shot through the sliding glass door several times, wounding Drake, according to the arrest report.

The suspects then entered through a back window and encountered the wounded, whimpering dog in the master bedroom. One suspect shot Drake again and left him for dead before they all ran away, the report stated.

One of the three juvenile suspects was arrested on Wednesday for the armed burglary and felony cruelty to animals. He was already on probation for burglary and grand theft, records show. Copyright 2012 Scripps Media, Inc. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed.

Ex-police dog shot during burglary outside West Palm Beach
Published on Thursday, November 22, 2012
in the Orlando Sentinel

A 16-year-old armed burglary suspect was arrested, two others were being sought, and a retired police dog was clinging to life after a break-in at a Florida Highway Patrol trooper's home near West Palm Beach, according to Palm Beach County Sheriff's detectives.

The burglary happened Sunday around 10 p.m. at a home near Jog Road and Belvedere Road, investigators said.

The trooper was not home at the time but a German shepherd that lived there started barking during the break-in. One of the suspects shot through the sliding glass door several times, wounding the former police dog named Drake, according to the arrest report.

The suspects then entered through a back window and encountered the wounded, whimpering dog in the master bedroom. One suspect shot Drake again and left him for dead before they all ran away, the report stated.

One of the three juvenile suspects was arrested on Wednesday for the armed burglary and felony cruelty to animals. He was already on probation for burglary and grand theft, records show.

Drake was battling to survive his wounds but took a turn for the worse Wednesday evening, investigators said.

Arrest made in home burglary that wounded K-9
Published on Thursday, November 22, 2012
on the WPBF (ABC)

GREENACRES, Fla. — Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office detectives said Wednesday night that they've made an arrest in a West Palm Beach home burglary where a German shepherd was shot at least four times.

According to a news release from the PBSO, the investigation revealed three boys committed the armed burglary Sunday. One suspect, a 16-year-old boy, was arrested Wednesday night on charges of armed burglary and felony cruelty to animals.

Detectives said the 16-year-old was on probation for burglary and grand theft.

The PBSO release said officials didn't expect the 5-year-old K-9, Drake, to survive the night. However, a WPBF 25 News reporter spoke on the telephone with the dog's veterinarian, who said Drake was doing much better Wednesday evening.

A Florida Highway Patrol trooper came home to find his house disheveled and Drake covered in blood. Troopers think Drake bit the burglars, who then shot him to get away.

The hero police dog chased the burglars out of his owner's house. Bullets went through his head, jaw and legs.

"Well, he's a police dog. He's trained to do that," veterinarian Dr. Ken Simmons told WPBF 25 News. "He did what he was supposed to do, which was to fend off the intruders as best he could. In spite of being shot several times, he still managed to come out of it in one piece, or several pieces, but we got him back in one piece now. (Drake is a) very brave dog."

Simmons also found a large, benign tumor in Drake's abdomen.

The veterinarian told the WPBF reporter Wednesday night that Drake had fluid and air in his chest, making it difficult for him to breathe.

Anyone who would like to donate to help the hero dog's recovery can contact Simmons Veterinarian Hospital at 561-439-3220.

Ex-police dog shot during burglary
Published on Thursday, November 22, 2012
on the WPEC News

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) -- A former police dog is fighting for his life after being shot while protecting his owner's West Palm Beach house from burglars.

Florida Highway Patrolman Bobby Boody said his 5-year-old German shepherd Drake is struggling after surgery for several gunshot wounds.

The Palm Beach Post reports (<http://bit.ly/T6ZXwK>) that a 16-year-old suspect was arrested Wednesday. He allegedly told investigators that he and two friends targeted Boody because they thought they would find guns and money in the trooper's house. The teen allegedly confessed to shooting Drake. He is charged with felony burglary with a firearm and cruelty to animals. The two friends are being sought.

When Boody returned home after Sunday's burglary, he found Drake shot. He loaded the 100-pound dog into his car and sped him to the animal hospital.

Arrest made in retired K-9 shooting
Published on Thursday, November 22, 2012
on the WPEC News

PALM BEACH COUNTY, Fla -- An arrest has been made in a shocking case of animal cruelty. It's a story you first saw on CBS 12 news. A retired Police K-9 is recovering after taking several bullets while protecting his home in Greenacres.

Tonight police say they've got a suspect and a confession. Detectives say tonight a teen suspect cracked and confessed to shooting five-year-old Drake a retired police K-9.

The teen and two others allegedly burglarized an FHP trooper's home near West Palm Beach. Detectives say during the break-in Drake took bullets to the head, neck, front and back legs.

Detectives say they easily tracked down this suspect because the teen already had a GPS ankle bracelet from the last burglary he allegedly committed. Drake is walking again but it won't be an easy recovery.

Drake will needs months to get better detectives say the suspects were definitely targeting the troopers house.Arrest made in retired K-9 shooting

Teen arrested, two sought for armed burglary and shooting ex-police dog
Published on Thursday, November 22, 2012
on the WPTV News

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. - A 16-year-old armed burglary suspect was arrested, two more were being sought, and a retired police dog was clinging to life after a break-in Sunday at a Florida Highway Patrol trooper's home near West Palm Beach, according to Palm Beach County Sheriff's detectives.

The burglary happened around 10 p.m. at a home near Jog Road and Belvedere Road, investigators said.

The trooper was not home at the time but a German Shepherd that lived there started barking during the break-in. One of the suspects shot through the sliding glass door several times, wounding the former police dog named Drake, according to the arrest report.

The suspects then entered through a back window and encountered the wounded, whimpering dog in the master bedroom. One suspect shot Drake again and left him for dead before they all ran away, the report stated.

One of the three juvenile suspects was arrested on Wednesday for the armed burglary and felony cruelty to animals. He was already on probation for burglary and grand theft, records show.

Drake was battling to survive his wounds but took a turn for the worse Wednesday evening, investigators said.

Drake, FHP trooper's retired police dog, in critical condition after being shot during break-in
Published on Thursday, November 22, 2012
on the WPTV News

A retired police dog is still clinging to life after a break-in at a Florida Highway Patrol trooper's home near West Palm Beach Sunday, according to Palm Beach County Sheriff's detectives.

A 16-year-old armed burglary suspect was arrested and two others are being sought after Drake, a German shepherd, was shot during the break-in. Drake was still in critical condition Thursday afternoon.

The burglary happened Sunday around 10 p.m. at Trooper Robert Boody's home near Jog Road and Belvedere Road, investigators said.

Boody was not home at the time but Drake, who lives with Boody, started barking during the break-in.

"When I initially saw the scene at the house I initially assumed that the dog was going to be dead," Boody said. "I was relieved to find him alive."

One of the suspects shot through the sliding glass door several times, wounding Drake, according to the arrest report.

The suspects then entered through a back window and encountered the wounded, whimpering dog in the master bedroom. One suspect shot Drake again and left him for dead before they all ran away, the report stated.

One of the three juvenile suspects was arrested on Wednesday for the armed burglary and felony cruelty to animals. He was already on probation for burglary and grand theft, records show.

Boody said he has received an "unbelievable" response in his search for answers and Drake's treatment.

"I can't express my appreciation enough for the hospital here, the hospital that provided his emergency care, everybody that's expressed concern and made donations," Boody said. "It's just been overwhelming for me and him."

Drake is battling to survive his wounds but took a turn for the worse by Wednesday evening, investigators said.

"He is strong and I know they're doing everything that they can do," Boody said.

Retired K-9 shot repeatedly in break-in
Published on Tuesday, November 20, 2012
on the WPEC News

A Highway Patrol trooper's pet dog, a retired K-9 named Drake, is recovering after being shot repeatedly during a break-in at the trooper's home.

A CBS 12 news crew got to see Drake moments after he underwent hours of surgery at Simmons Veterinary Hospital in Greenacres, on Tuesday.

Dr. Ken Simmons called the shooting of the dog an obvious attempt to kill the animal. Drake was shot in the top of head, neck, a front leg, and a back leg. Simmons says had the bullet to the head hit somewhere else, the wound could have been fatal.

"That's the one that should have taken him right out," remarked Dr. Simmons, pointing out how the bullet entered above the dog's right eye, tore through his tongue, and exited below the jaw bone.

The veterinarian added, "There's some speculation about whether the dog might have had the guy's hand in his mouth when he shot him, because he shot him at point blank range." The suspect likely was avoiding his own hand, when firing at Drake's head, Simmons said.

The doctor says the trooper is understandably angry his dog was shot, but is grateful to the Forest Hill emergency clinic for keeping Duke alive, and that he continues to make progress.

Dr. Simmons says he's amazed Drake was able to survive and come through it so far, but he has a long way to go.

Donations for Drake's bills are being accepted at Simmons Veterinary Hospital.