



## **SCOTTS BLUFF COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

1825 10th Street • Gering, NE 69341

**Mark L. Overman, Sheriff**

On July 20, 2020, at approximately 1254 hours, a Scotts Bluff County Deputy Sheriff arrived at a rural residence near Lake Minatare to serve a Scotts Bluff County District Court Summons. The Deputy first approached a house and after no one answered, he approached an adjacent shop building where there is an apartment. No dogs were seen or heard up to this point.

As soon as the Deputy knocked at the shop, a dog began barking and the Deputy was unsure if it was inside or outside the shop. The barking then began to get louder and a German Shepherd came around the northwest corner of the shop barking. The dog was much closer to the Deputy than the Deputy was to his vehicle.

As soon as the Deputy saw the dog he immediately began and continued to retreat as the dog approached, repeatedly saying "No". The dog continued to advance, bared its teeth while growling, and charged the Deputy. When the dog was within a very short distance of the Deputy in a full charge, the Deputy discharged one round from his handgun into the dog. The dog turned and ran around the side of the shop where the Deputy lost sight of it.

The Deputy immediately informed the communications center and Sheriff's Office command staff that a dog had attempted to attack him and that he had shot it. The Deputy then went to the north side of the shop building and located the dog deceased.

The Deputy was able to contact the dog's owner, who came to the scene. The Deputy told him what had occurred. The owner demanded to know the Deputy's name, and the Deputy provided him with a business card and served the man with the court summons.

Although we regret this incident, the Deputy had a right and a duty to serve the summons in person. The use of force was appropriate and lawful according to applicable law and department policy. There is no requirement in our policy or any that we are aware of that states an officer must suffer an actual bite before taking action to defend himself from a large charging dog.

Mark Overman  
Scotts Bluff County Sheriff

July 21, 2020