



Press Release

City of Redondo Beach
Public Information Office

415 Diamond Street
Redondo Beach, CA 90277
(310) 379-2477 x2309

07-30-07

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE # 000

Subject : Redondo Beach Police Canine Stabbed

Contact : Lt. Joe Hoffman

A Redondo Beach Police Canine was stabbed and narrowly escaped serious injury early Monday morning. Officers arrested Jimmie Lunceford, 39, following a vehicle pursuit of Lunceford. He was wanted for making death threats to a family member. He was also charged with attacking Redondo Beach Police Canine Officer Valor.

A family member called police early Sunday evening because Lunceford made death threats towards them. He continued to telephone the family member and make death threats as officers checked for Lunceford at his residence in Lawndale. Officers were unable to find Lunceford.

Monday morning around 5:00 AM, the same family member called 911 because Lunceford was at their house, attempting to force his way into the home. Lunceford left the area in his car before police arrived.

Officers responding to the call located Lunceford's car several blocks away and tried to pull him over. Lunceford did not pull over and continued to drive his car during a slow speed chase. Lunceford stopped his vehicle in the family member's driveway in the 2200 block of Rockefeller Lane. Lunceford would not listen or follow officer's commands to give himself up. Lunceford yelled for officers to shoot him, telling officers that he wanted to die and told officers that he had a knife.

Lunceford exited his vehicle, and continued to yell at officers to shoot him. Lunceford refused to show officers his hands, so that officers could take him into custody. Seeing no knife in his hands, and rather than resort to deadly force, Canine Officer Valor was deployed to take him into custody for the safety of everyone involved.

As Valor approached, Lunceford produced a knife and was able to stab Valor. Valor was called away by his handler, Officer Ken Greenleaf, before Lunceford could harm Valor further. Lunceford dropped the knife and followed officers commands where he was arrested without further incident.

Valor sustained two stab wounds to the neck area, and was immediately rushed to an emergency animal clinic. Valor underwent surgery to check on the condition of the wounds, and it has been determined that the wounds are not life threatening. Valor is currently recuperating at the animal hospital, and is expected to return home shortly with Officer Ken Greenleaf to make a full recovery and return to duty.

This press release was prepared by Sergeant Shawn Freeman.

For further information about this incident or the Redondo Beach Police Department Canine Team, contact Lieutenant Joe Hoffman at 310-379-2477 extension 2345.