



Rick Staly, Sheriff

## FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

*"An honor to serve, a duty to protect."*

# NEWS RELEASE

**Date:** Sunday, July 1, 2018

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## **Man Shot Dog to Avoid Attack**

Flagler County Sheriff's Deputies responded to Westchester Lane in Palm Coast on Sunday morning after a man reported shooting and killing a dog that attempted to attack the man and his dog during a walk.

James Armes, 69, reported that he was walking his dog when two German Shepherd dogs began to approach in an aggressive manner at which time Armes attempted to leave the area and return to his home. One of the dogs then attempted to bite both Armes and his dog. At that time, Armes, in fear for his safety, drew a firearm from his back pocket and shot the aggressive dog.

The owner of the dogs met with deputies and explained that the dogs had escaped from their fenced in backyard on Westcliffe Lane. She admitted that the dogs have gotten loose in the past as well.

Deputies conducted a thorough investigation which included statements from residents in the area familiar with the two dogs roaming the area regularly and acting in an aggressive manner. Armes provided his Florida Concealed Weapons License to deputies and provided deputies with the weapon and ammunition used. Animal Control was notified and responded to the scene. The body of the deceased dog was given to the dog's owner.

"This is an unfortunate tragic neighborhood situation. While we never want to hear about the killing of a pet, pet owners must be responsible and watch over their animals," Sheriff Rick Staly said. "If you know your pet to be aggressive, it is your responsibility to keep them on your property or on a leash."

After obtaining all parties statements and the prior history of the dog getting loose and being aggressive, Armes' actions were determined to be in self-defense.

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