



Rick Staly, Sheriff

FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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NEWS RELEASE

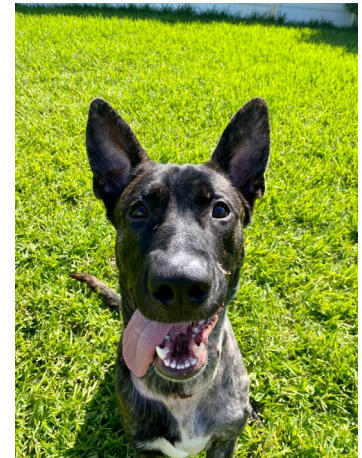
Date: May 10, 2022
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UPDATE: Dog Shot in the Face in April Finds Forever Home with FCSO Personnel, Living His Best Life as a Happy Pup

A dog who was shot in the face in April has started his next chapter, recovering and enjoying his new family. A Flagler County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) employee decided to welcome Rocky into his family and is excited to share his recovery story with the community.



A Saturday afternoon call early last month led deputies to uncover a young dog who was suffering in his kennel with a gunshot wound to his face. Detectives arrested the previous owner on felony animal cruelty charges and the dog was turned over to the custody of Palm Coast Animal Control while receiving medical care. Upon hearing the story of Rocky, one of FCSO's employee's decided to adopt him, where he's made great progress since his trauma.



The story behind Rocky's new chapter: On April 5, 2022, his adopter was working when the FCSO received multiple calls about an animal crying in the "S" Section of Palm Coast, and was invested in the case for more than work reasons. His family has been seeking another dog and when he saw pictures of Rocky, he fell in love.

"All the vets said he was a sweet dog and he'd make a full recovery," his adopter said. "They needed someone to foster him immediately when he was released from the vet following surgery, so he wouldn't have to go to the shelter. We agreed to take him right away!"

Rocky suffered a bullet going through his snout and bottom lip, into his neck and shoulder area, and through his left front leg. He had staples in his snout, a drain in his neck, a metal pin in his leg and

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numerous stitches. He couldn't bear weight on his leg, and hopped around for short bursts as he'd get tired quickly. After five weeks of being with his new family, he's officially been adopted, enjoys going to play in his yard and loves car rides.

"He's able to put weight on his leg now, but still hops when he tries to move quickly," his adopter said. "He's very playful, loves his toys, is great with our other dog, and loves everyone he meets. He's never even growled at us, unlike his previous family claimed. A little love goes a long way!"

Rocky is enjoying his new home. His wounds are still healing but he is on his way to making a full recovery.

"I'm glad to see this innocent animal is recovering and thriving," Sheriff Rick Staly said. "This poor animal has had a rough start to life, suffering abuse no animal should go through. His story touched the hearts of many in the community and I'm thrilled to see his progress. Thank you to all the personnel involved in his rescue and to our employee for giving him the second chance he deserves."

Original Release Date: April 5, 2022
Original Release #: 2022-083

Deputies Find Dog Shot in the Face Suffering in Kennel, Owner Arrested for Felony Animal Cruelty

A Saturday afternoon call from concerned citizens about gun shots being heard led deputies to discover an injured dog at a Seaman Trail residence in Palm Coast. Detectives were called to the scene and it was discovered that 25-year-old Jamier Lee shot a dog in the snout and left it in a kennel in a bedroom.



The Sheriff's 9-1-1 Dispatch Center received several calls from neighbors of the Seminole Woods residence claiming they heard dogs barking and crying and a gun shot. Flagler County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) Deputies arrived to 21 Seaman Trail East and made contact with Lee who denied hearing anything. Shortly after the initial contact with Lee, his behavior and mannerisms became concerning and deputies witnessed him sweating excessively with what appeared to be freshly smeared blood on his face. They also observed a freshly dug hole in the corner of the backyard and Lee hosing off his back lanai at one point. Due to the suspicious circumstances, deputies called in detectives to aid in the

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investigation.

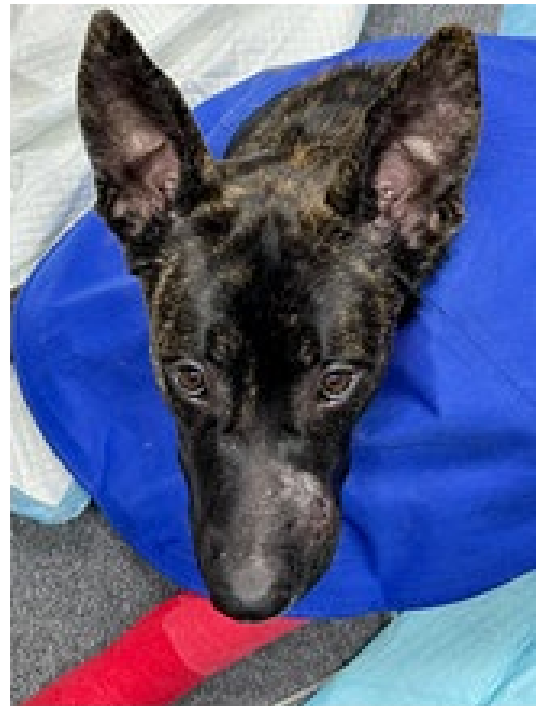
Detectives met with Lee who advised he was woken up earlier to a family member screaming at their dog who had bitten her. Lee claimed he jumped out of bed, retrieved a firearm, picked up the dog, walked outside and shot the dog once in the head. He then dragged the dog back inside, locked it in the kennel, and attempted to clean the bloody patio to prevent anyone from knowing what happened.

Immediately following the confession, detectives entered the residence, found the dog who was visibly in pain, and transported the dog to Flagler Animal Hospital. During the investigation, it was also discovered the injured dog was inside the kennel for over two hours before law enforcement was notified.

“This is a sick and twisted individual to try and reprimand an animal and leave it to die,” Sheriff Rick Staly said. “I’m glad the dog is doing well and expected to make a full recovery. I’d like to thank the detectives who were able to gather enough evidence to arrest this animal abuser along with Animal Control for helping get this dog to safety and taking care of his medical needs. Also to the neighbors who contacted us to report this incident, you may have very well saved this dog’s life. This was a great team effort everyone involved and I hope this guy never gets the privilege of owning a pet again.”

On Monday afternoon, a warrant for Lee’s arrest was signed for Felony Cruelty to Animals and Tampering with Physical Evidence. Lee was arrested without incident and transported to the Green Roof Inn on \$7,500 bond.

The dog, Rocky, is doing well and expected to make a full recovery.



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