

6-3-2021

Janel Heinrich,

I am filing an appeal in regards to my German Shepherd, Rock. I understand that you have determined Rock as a dangerous animal and are ordering to have him humanely euthanized. However, I have to disagree with your decision. Rock is a very loyal, protective dog, especially to me (his owner). I do understand that you are aware of his 4 bite incidents and I am sure that you have heard the details on those incidents, as well, but I would like to remind you that 3 of the 4 incidents were Rock protecting his owners (myself and my fiancé Jack) and protecting himself.

1) On 12/3/2020, my daughter's friend Danielle who is a licensed dog groomer was clipping Rock's nails, when he started to growl at her. My daughter and I both told her to stop and Danielle stated "he is fine" and proceeded to clip his nails. Rock then warned Danielle with a second growl and she decided to stand up and back away. As Danielle was backing away, Rock bit her. My daughter took her to urgent care where her wounds were cleaned out but did not require stitches. This incident was self defense -- Rock warned Danielle and he felt threatened.

2) In January of 2021 is when the second bite incident happened, again which was an act of protecting his owner and his territory. Buford (the man who attacked Jack) jumped on top of Jack and was holding him down hitting him. Rock then jumped on Buford and bit him, trying to save and protect the one's he loves.

Over →

3) On 4/17/2021, Rock did bite my brother in-law, Bob, which did require skin grafts. As Jack and brother Bob were petting Rock while being leashed, I walked near them and Bob turned to walk away and Rock bit him. On this specific incident, I am truly unsure as to why Rock bit him.

4) On 5/16/2021, Rock bit and injured a Humane Officer. As the Humane Officer was putting Rock into the vehicle, he jumped out. The officer then bent down to pick up a toy ball thinking it would get him to jump back into the vehicle. As the officer was bending over, Rock jumped on her and bit her. Rock felt very threatened and scared as he was being put into a cage in an unfamiliar vehicle with an unfamiliar face, and was protecting himself.

I was told by an officer with Animal Control over the phone that she did not think Rock is an aggressive dog, but he lives in fear and bites when he is scared or uncomfortable. Rock is only about 2 years old, he doesn't deserve for his life to end. He is currently being held at the Dane County Humane Society where he thinks he is being punished for what he thought was right. German Shepherds are extremely loyal to their humans and will put everything on the line for those they love. Please consider giving Rock another chance at life. I did also find a man who lives on a farm alone with another German Shepherd and said he would really love to take Rock in with open wings. He said he would love to get Rock into training. Rock means the world to me, and he hasn't had a very fair life, but I will do anything to keep him alive and safe.

Sincerely,

Billie Jo Swenson
(608) 513-3472

Billie Jo Swenson
298 Prairie View St #3
Oregon, WI 53575

Janel Heinrich, MPH, MA
Director of Public Health
210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd Rm 507
Madison, WI 53703