



Written by [Patrick Krey](#) on August 6, 2018

Published in the August 6, 2018 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 34, No. 15

Exercising the Right

Man's "Best Friend"

While this column sometimes uses the term "animal" to refer to the criminals who are shot while in the commission of a crime, a news story out of Palm Coast, Florida, reminded us that citizens also need to be armed to defend themselves from actual animals! News4Jax.com reported on July 1 that a 69-year-old man who was out walking his dog was forced to shoot another dog in self-defense.

The Flagler County Sheriff's Office is still investigating the incident, but it has determined that the man had a valid concealed-carry permit and the shooting appeared to be justified. The man was walking his dog when two dogs got loose from a nearby property and became very aggressive toward him and his dog. The man tried to leave, but one of the dogs, a German shepherd, became increasingly violent and tried biting both the man and his dog. That's when the dog owner felt he was left with no other option but to use deadly force. He pulled out the pistol he was carrying and fired at the snarling animal.

Authorities were soon called to the scene, where they discovered the deceased pet. The sheriffs interviewed the owners of the rampaging dogs, who admitted that the dogs did have a habit of escaping the property. The sheriff's office acknowledged that this incident involved the death of a beloved pet but that the circumstances might have forced the man to defend himself: "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."

Mother Shoots Carjacker to Protect Kids

A woman's maternal instincts and firearms training can be a very deadly combination for criminals, as a would-be carjacker in Texas recently found out. Fox 4 reported on July 5 that a woman in Dallas was driving her SUV with her two- and four-year-old sons inside when the incident took place.

The mother drove to a gas station, filled her tank, and went inside to pay when she witnessed a stranger climb into her vehicle. The mother, Michelle Booker-Hicks, told Fox 4 about the terrifying ordeal. Hicks immediately ran to her vehicle, jumped in, and demanded that the suspect get out. She told Fox 4, "I proceeded to jump in ... and asked the gentleman to stop, to get out the car.... He would not get out of the car." She said the suspect's eyes were bulging, and he looked crazed and refused to listen to her. So she reached into her glove compartment, where she kept a loaded pistol and fired it at the man. "I'm not a killer, but I do believe in defending what's mine," Booker-Hicks explained to Fox 4.

The bullet hit the man in his face. The carjacker had gotten the vehicle in motion by this point, but his injury was too great, and he crashed the SUV into a nearby telephone pole. Police were called to the scene, and the suspect was transported to a nearby medical facility for treatment.

Authorities expect to charge the suspect with kidnapping and carjacking. The mother stood by her actions and stated that she hopes the suspect learned from his encounter and will now straighten his life out. "I hope that woke him up," Booker-Hicks told Fox 4.

Shootout in Off-duty Cop's Home

KFDI reported out of northwest Wichita, Kansas, on July 3 that an intruder broke in to an off-duty police officer's house and engaged in a shootout with the cop while his family was home. The officer was shot



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in the leg and received medical treatment, but is expected to make a full recovery. The intruder was shot multiple times and died from his injuries.

Police Chief Gordon Ramsay told the news that the suspect entered the house through an unlocked door, and was armed with what was later determined to be a stolen gun. “The two had engaged in a gun battle.... Both the suspect and the off-duty officer were shot,” Chief Ramsay told the news. “We’re still putting the pieces of this together.... There is no relationship between the two. It doesn’t appear that they know each other.” Ramsay told the news that this appears to just be “a case of an intruder in the home.” The investigation is ongoing, but authorities are looking into whether the intruder is linked to break-ins of vehicles in the neighborhood.

Internet Stalker

Newsweek reported on June 26 that a deranged lunatic traveled all the way from New Zealand to Goochland, Virginia, to stalk a 14-year-old girl he had been communicating with online. The suspect, 25-year-old Troy Skinner, met the girl on an online chat service and then became obsessed with her. When the parents became aware of Skinner’s online contact with their young daughter, they told him to leave her alone and not contact her any further. The man did not listen, though, and instead flew to America, where he stopped at a Walmart and bought duct tape and a knife. He then went to the girl’s house and tried forcing his way in.

The girl’s mother discovered the man, dressed all in black, trying to smash his way into the rear of the house with a brick. The mother armed herself with a .22-caliber pistol and warned him to stop. The stalker then went around to the front of the house and smashed the glass on the front door with a concrete slab.

When the mother witnessed this relentless man reach through the broken glass to unlock the door, she had seen enough. In fear of what may happen next, the mother fired at Skinner, hitting him twice in the neck. The Goochland County Sheriff soon arrived on the scene, where they found the injured Skinner laying on the lawn of a nearby house. Skinner was taken for medical treatment and was charged with breaking and entering with a deadly weapon, with the intent to commit a serious crime. The New Zealand news site [stuff.co.nz](#) reported that Goochland County Sheriff James Agnew praised the mother’s actions and explained how much of a threat Skinner posed: “All I can say is the manner in which he attempted to enter that home in the face of a firearm pointed at him and the implements we recovered from him — the only inference is that he had very bad intent.”

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