The background of the slide features a stylized, light blue and white pattern of overlapping leaves and branches, creating a naturalistic yet abstract aesthetic.

Animals and the Law of 1983

Apr. 8, 2013

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Civil Rights Act of 1871 (42 U.S.C. s 1983)

Every person who, under color of any statute, ordinance, regulation, custom, or usage, of any State or Territory or the District of Columbia, subjects, or causes to be subjected, any citizen of the United States or other person within the jurisdiction thereof to the deprivation of any rights, privileges, or immunities secured by the Constitution and laws, shall be liable to the party injured in an action at law, suit in equity, or other proper proceeding for redress, except that in any action brought against a judicial officer for an act or omission taken in such officer's judicial capacity, injunctive relief shall not be granted unless a declaratory decree was violated or declaratory relief was unavailable. For the purposes of this section, any Act of Congress applicable exclusively to the District of Columbia shall be considered to be a statute of the District of Columbia.

Common Features

- Originally enacted as remedy for emancipated slaves suffering at hands of public officials who were also rank-and-file KKK members. 1983 is liberally construed. *Dennis*, 498 U.S. 439 (1991)
- **State actor:**
 - May include private citizens. *Dennis*, 449 U.S. 24 (1980)
 - May include municipalities. *Monell*, 436 U.S. 658 (1978)
- **Culpable mens rea:**
 - “Mere negligence” bar. *Daniels*, 474 U.S. 327 (1986)
 - Typically deliberate indifference/recklessness.
- **Violation:**
 - Bill of Rights or Certain federal statutes.
- **Punitives against individuals only**

Common Features

- **Qualified Immunity:**
 - Does not apply to municipalities. *Owen*, 445 U.S. 622 (1980)
- **Municipal Claims:**
 - Custom-or-Policy as Moving Force
 - Includes “informal” as in “throw down” case *Webster*, 689 F.2d 1220 (5th Cir.1982)(officers placing weapon at unarmed suspect’s side after shooting)
 - Defective Training
 - Deliberate or conscious choice; “so obvious” need test. *Tuttle*, 471 U.S. 808 (1985)
- **Common Constitutional Bases:**
 - Fourth Amendment (unreasonable search or seizure)
 - Fourteenth Amendment (due process, equal protection)

Police Shooting Dogs as Seizure

- ❑ **Fourth Amendment** provides “[t]he right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures[.]”
- ❑ “**Effects**” include personalty.
- ❑ “**Seizure**” requires “meaningful interference with an individuals’ possessory interests in that property.”
- ❑ “[T]he **destruction of property** by state officials poses as much of a threat, if not more, to people’s right to be ‘secure ... in their effects’ as does the physical taking of them.” *Fuller*.



Overview

Analogize to Police Shooting People

- ❑ **Fourth Amendment Seizure**
 - ❑ *Per se* unreasonable without a warrant.
 - ❑ If warrantless exception exists, cannot be “disproportionately intrusive.”
- ❑ **Disproportionality** turns on use of force.
- ❑ **Excessive (non-deadly) force** test of *Graham v. Connor*, 490 U.S. 386, 395 (1989)
 - ❑ If disproportionate to threat, then unreasonable.



Overview

Killing Fleeing Fidos

- ❑ **Deadly force** test of *Tennessee v. Garner*, 471 U.S. 1 (1985) authorizes use only when commensurate with threat.
- ❑ Often turns on **quantum** and **nature** of force used to stave off threat of imminent harm.
- ❑ All claims – deadly or not – analyzed under Fourth Amendment's reasonableness standard. *Graham*, at 395.



Canine Neutralization

When Deadly Force Warranted

- ❑ “Whenever practicable, a **warning must be given** so that the suspect may end his resistance or terminate his flight. ... Other means exist for bringing the offender to justice, even if additional time and effort are required.” *Harris v. Roderick*, 126 F.3d 1189, 1201, 1204 (9th Cir.(Id.),1997)(Ruby Ridge case).
- ❑ Deadly force is appropriate only with probable cause to believe the suspect poses significant threat of death or serious bodily injury to him or others. *Garner*, at 3, 11 (1985).



Police Shooting Dogs

Necessity Required

- ❑ Deadly force means force creating a **substantial risk of death or serious bodily harm**. *Smith v. City of Hemet*, 394 F.3d 689 (9th Cir. 2005).
- ❑ “Necessity is the second prerequisite for the use of deadly force under *Garner*. ‘The necessity inquiry is a factual one: **Did a reasonable non-deadly alternative exist for apprehending the suspect?**’” *Brower v. County of Inyo*, 884 F.2d 1316 (9th Cir. 1989), *on remand*.



Overview

Scenarios

- ❑ **Owner-present:**
 - ❑ *Brown v. Muhlenberg Tsp.* (Immi)
 - ❑ *Viilo v. Eyre* (Bubba)
 - ❑ *Fuller v. Vines* (Champ)
 - ❑ *Russell v. City of Chicago* (Lady)
- ❑ **Split-second:**
 - ❑ *Altman v. City of High Point*
 - ❑ *Warboys v. Proulx*
- ❑ **Time to Burn:**
 - ❑ *San Jose Hells Angels*



Fuller v. Vines

36 F.3d 65 (9th Cir. (Cal.) 1994)

- ❑ Officers investigating another matter pass by Fullers' yard.
- ❑ Champ **merely stood up** from where he was lying, nearby father and son.
- ❑ Officers contended that Champ growled and barked.
- ❑ Father **pleaded** with officers not to shoot and said he could control Champ.
- ❑ Officers killed Champ after being shot twice – once in shoulder and the other in head to **“finish him off.”**
- ❑ Son was wrestled to ground and he alleged that officer cocked gun to his head and threatened to send him to the morgue.



Fuller v. Vines

36 F.3d 65 (9th Cir. (Cal.) 1994)

- ❑ Initial complaint alleged violation of PDP and SDP related to killing Champ and threatening son. **SJ dismissal and motion to amend denied.**
- ❑ Court of appeals **reversed**, allowing amendment for Fourth Amendment seizure (Champ) but not for son.
- ❑ In ***Fuller II*, 117 F.3d 1425** (9th 1997) – qualified immunity rejected (reversal of SJ dismissal).
- ❑ Jury awarded \$143,000 compensatory and \$10,000 punitives in relation to Champ, and \$77,000 compensatory and \$25,000 punitives in relation to the assault tort claim for the son.

Fuller v. V

36 F.3d 65 (9th C

AC 450 (Rev. 5/85) Judgment in a Civil Case ©

FILED

United States District Court DEC 18 1998

NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

JAMES FULLER, SR. AND
JAMES FULLER, JR. v. JUDGMENT IN A CIVIL CASE
ENTERED IN CIVIL DOCKET DEC 28 1998 1758

OFFICER KERRY VINE and OFFICER
MITCHELL PEIXOTO CASE NUMBER: C-92-2412 MMC (WD6)

Jury Verdict. This action came before the Court for a trial by jury. The issues have been tried and the jury has rendered its verdict.

Decision by Court. This action came to trial or hearing before the Court. The issues have been tried or heard and a decision has been rendered.

IT IS ORDERED AND ADJUDGED the jury found the following special verdict:

That defendant Officer Vine violated the constitutional rights of plaintiffs in the shooting of plaintiffs' dog.

The damages suffered by each plaintiff which were proximately caused by the violation of the plaintiff's constitutional rights:

James Fuller, Sr.	\$100,000.00
James Fuller, Jr.	\$ 43,000.00

Punitive damages assessed against defendant Officer Vine in the amount of \$10,000.00.

That defendant Officer Peixoto is liable for an assault on James Fuller, Jr.

The damages suffered by James Fuller, Jr. which were proximately caused by

The damages suffered by each plaintiff which were proximately caused by the violation of the plaintiff's constitutional rights:

James Fuller, Sr.	\$100,000.00
James Fuller, Jr.	\$ 43,000.00



Brown v. Muhlenberg Tsp.

269 F.3d 205 (3rd Cir. (Pa.) 2001)

- ❑ Immi, a Rottweiler, escapes during move and wanders to parking lot **adjoining Browns' property**.
- ❑ Officer Eberly parks and approaches, claps hands and calls. Immi barks several times and **withdraws**, circling around vehicle in lot about **20' from curb**.
- ❑ **Eberly crosses street** to 10-12' away, where Immi is **stationary and not growling or barking**.
- ❑ Kim Brown **screams** out open, screened window, "That's my dog, don't shoot!"
- ❑ Eberly **hesitates** a few seconds before pointing gun.
- ❑ Eberly kills Immi with **5 shots** (4 in her rear).



Brown v. Muhlenberg Tsp.

269 F.3d 205 (3rd Cir. (Pa.) 2001)

- ❑ District Court grants SJ dismissal to defendants.
- ❑ Court of Appeals reverses and remands:
 - ❑ ***Fourth Amendment Seizure (Unreasonable)***
 - ❑ ***No 14th Amendment Due Process Violation***
 - ❑ ***No Section 1983 Monell-type Liability***
 - ❑ ***No Failure to Train Section 1983 Liability***
 - ❑ ***No Supervisory Liability***
 - ❑ ***Outrage Claim Permitted***
- ❑ Court of Appeals rejects notion that “unlicensed dog” is “abandoned,” and thus, no seizure occurred.
- ❑ **“Owner looking on, obviously desirous of retaining custody” standard.**

Other Shooting Cases

***Altman v. High Point*, 330 F.3d 194 (2003, 4th)**

- ❑ Agrees with *Brown, Fuller* that killing dog = seizure.
- ❑ Though four dog killings by gunshot were “seizures,” all were reasonable and excused, including “Hot rod,” a part pit, shot after allegedly charging officer twice but then running away without attacking.
- ❑ Embraces *Brown* “owner present” factor to tip reasonableness in private citizen’s favor.

***Leshner v. Reed*, 12 F.3d 148 (8th Cir. 1994)**

- ❑ K-9 officer’s partner bit small child. Peers went to officer’s home to seize and kill dog. Officer asserted intent to reclaim, but was threatened with termination, so he relinquished custody and sued under Fourth Amendment.
- ❑ If private citizen (and not public employee), would have been seizure.

San Jose Hells Angels Case

402 F.3d 962 (9th Cir.(Cal.)2005)

- ❑ Search warrants executed on the residences of two reputed Hells Angels members and the Hells Angels clubhouse.
- ❑ **Plan to neutralize guard dogs: shoot them if they get in the way.**
- ❑ As expected, the officers killed three dogs.
- ❑ Police appealed denial of motion for qualified immunity.



San Jose Hells Angels Case

- ❑ The Ninth Circuit **unanimously** affirmed.
- ❑ **Killing a dog is a clearly established seizure.** Dogs “are more than a personal effect” and the “emotional attachment to a family’s dog is not comparable to a possessory interest in furniture.”
- ❑ **Excessive force** under *Graham v. Connor*.
- ❑ “These cases should have alerted any reasonable officer that the Fourth Amendment forbids the killing of a person's dog, or the destruction of a person's property, when that destruction is unnecessary—i.e., when less intrusive, or less destructive, alternatives exist.”

San Jose Hells Angels Case

- ❑ No **qualified immunity**.
 - ❑ **First step**: Was there a deprivation of a constitutional right? (in light favorable to plaintiff)
 - ❑ **Second step**: Was the right “clearly established”? (sufficiently delineated to make reasonable officer aware that he was violating right – OBJECTIVE test)
 - ❑ Importantly, the question is not whether the conduct was lawful but whether a reasonable officer could have believed it was lawful. Reasonable mistakes are excused.
- ❑ **Settlement in 2006** for ~\$1.8 million.

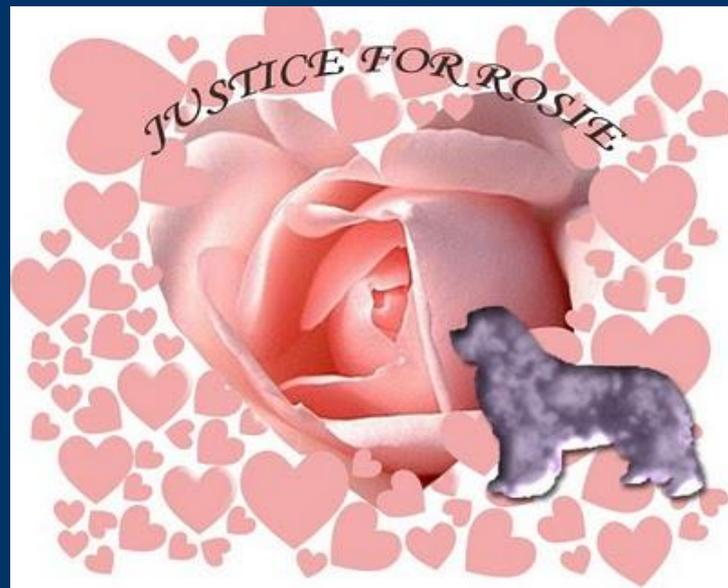
Carroll v. County of Monroe

2013 WL 908470 (2nd Cir. (NY) 3/12/13)

- No-knock warrant results in shotgun blast to head of aggressing dog in “fatal funnel”
- No warning
- No pepper spray
- No Taser
- No catchpole
- Jury finds seizure reasonable
- Distinguishes *San Jose*



- It all begins with a 911 call from Marilyn Carlson.
- Police are dispatched to Wrights' residence.
- Rosie is in driveway.
- Officers believe she is at home but decide to Taser her in order to apparently immobilize her and then put the noose of the catchpole around her.
- They send her racing to Lora Perry's yard.
- Then execute her.



Rosie Wright

(DOL: Nov. 7, 2010)



Aerial view of Rosie's home

Rosie Wright

Rosie's Home



Rosie Wright

Rosie's Home



Rosie Wright

Pet Licensing and Alarm Registration

Wright, Charles & Deidre

2009 PET LICENSE

Expiration Date: 12/31/09

DES MOINES POLICE DEPARTMENT
21900 - 11TH AVE SO. • DES MOINES, WA 98198
(206) 878-3301 • (206) 878-6149

Owner's Name: Deidre Wright
 Home Address: 2229 16th Ave S
 Mailing Address: _____
 Des Moines, WA Zip: 98148
 Phone Numbers: _____

Tag Number	1261	1262	By
Pet's Name:	<u>Cooking</u>	<u>Bentley</u>	
Age:	<u>1 1/2 yrs</u>	<u>5 months</u>	
Breed(s):	<u>Spaniel</u>	<u>St Bernard</u>	
Color(s):	<u>Black</u>	<u>Black & White</u>	
Markings:			
Sex:	<u>Male / Female</u>	<u>Male / Female</u>	<u>Male / Female</u>
Altered:	<u>Yes / No</u>	<u>Yes / No</u>	<u>Yes / No</u>
Microchip #:	<u>11/2009</u>	<u>956600000000</u>	
Babies Vaccination Expiration Date:	<u>7/2009</u>	<u>12/2009</u>	

Annual License Fee - Altered Dogs & Cats - \$20.00
 Unaltered Dogs & Cats - \$60.00

30 day (60 day late fee - add 50% • One hundred-twenty (120) day late fee - add 100%.

Senior Citizen License Fee - No Charge (if no other plus proof of animal status)
 Lost Valid Tag Replacement Fee - \$1.00

License Fee: 20.00 20.00 **ENTERED BY: KJH/0608**
 Late penalty: _____

DATE: 2/26/09 TOTAL RECEIVED: 40.00
 Sold By: OMPD / KCAC Initials: KJH

WHITE COPY and TAG(S) TO PET OWNER



DES MOINES POLICE DEPARTMENT
21900 - 11TH AVENUE SOUTH
DES MOINES, WA 98198-6319
(206) 878-3301

OFFICE USE ONLY

PERMIT #: 1701
 CLERK: MLB
 AMOUNT: _____
 DATE ISSUED: _____
 RECEIPT #: _____
 ENTERED BY: _____

ALARM REGISTRATION APPLICATION

DATE 4/30/10 NEW REPLACE DECAL # _____ UPDATE RENEWAL

I. SUBSCRIBER INFORMATION

(PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT LEGIBLY WITH BALLPOINT PEN)

COMMERCIAL RESIDENTIAL OWNER OCCUPIED RENTAL

BUSINESS/RESIDENT'S NAME Wright/Deidre/Charles HOME # N/A
 STREET ADDRESS 2622 916th Ave S CELL # 206- [REDACTED] ✓
 MAILING ADDRESS Des Moines WA 98148 WORK # 206- [REDACTED] ✓
 ALTERNATE PHONE N/A ✓

PROPERTY OWNER (IF DIFFERENT) _____
 OWNER'S ADDRESS _____ OWNER'S PHONE _____
 ANIMALS ON PREMISE YES NO TYPE Dog NUMBER OF ANIMALS 1 ✓
 DRIVERS LICENSE # AND STATE [REDACTED] ✓

II. ALARM COMPANY INFORMATION

TYPE OF ALARM SYSTEM: AUDIBLE SILENT NOT MONITORED BY AN ALARM COMPANY ✓
 ALARM SERVICING COMPANY _____ PHONE _____
 ALARM MONITORING COMPANY _____ PHONE _____

III. EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION

LIST TWO RESPONSIBLE REPRESENTATIVES (OTHER THAN THE APPLICANT) WHO WILL HAVE KEYS AND RESPOND WITHIN 30 MINUTES TO AN ALARM ACTIVATION TO ASSIST THE POLICE IN DETERMINING THE CAUSE OF THE ALARM ACTIVATION AND TO SECURE THE PREMISES (IF NO ONE WITHIN 30 MINUTES HAS A KEY, LIST SOMEONE WHO COULD HELP US GET IN TOUCH WITH YOU).

1. NAME Victor Wright ✓
 DAY TELEPHONE (253) [REDACTED] cell NIGHT TELEPHONE () _____ ✓
 2. NAME Sarah Delaplaine ✓
 DAY TELEPHONE (253) [REDACTED] NIGHT TELEPHONE () _____ ✓

CITY OF DES MOINES ORDINANCE 1300 REQUIRES ALL BUSINESSES AND RESIDENCES WITH BURGLARY ALARM SYSTEMS TO HAVE A VALID ALARM REGISTRATION. FAILURE TO COMPLETE THIS APPLICATION OR TO PAY YOUR \$25 FEE WILL RESULT IN NO POLICE

Rosie Wright

Cellphone Snapshot



Jan Magnuson

From: Michael Graddos
Sent: Sunday, November 07, 2010 1:50 PM
To: Jan Magnuson
Subject: IMG00403.jpg
Attachments: IMG00403.jpg

Do u know this dog, maybe a newfie?
.....

Sent using BlackBerry

Rosie Wright

Refuge at Perry Property



Perry's Gate to Fenced Frontyard



Perry's Gate to the Fenced Backyard

Rosie Wright

Room with Nucci's View



Rosie Wright

Refuge at Perry Property



North Side of Perry's Backyard (see Chainlink Fence)



Rosie Wright

Refuge at Perry Property



North Side of Perry's Backyard (see Chainlink Fence)



Rosie Wright

Four Shots with M4



- “Probably lives here.”



- “Why would he go down and hang out in that driveway if he didn’t live here? Hate to kill him in his own yard.”



- “So now once we get him, what are we gonna do with him?”



- “I say we just shoot him, kill him. ... He’s gonna fight like a fucker once he’s Tased; I can try to choke him out,”



- “I’ll shoot him. Let’s just go shoot him.”



■ “Nice!”



Rosie Wright

CT Results

Dr. Kramer's report describes each bullet pathway, but not in any particular order. That said, as discussed above, the first shot had to have struck her right leg:

1. A bullet has entered the right thoracic limb and caused severely comminuted fracture trauma in the distal right humerus, including entrance into the caudal-most aspect of the elbow joint. Most of the fracture shards are present medial to the large bone fragments. Shrapnel are largely present lateral and proximal to the fracture site. Gas foci are present primarily medial to the fracture bed.

Kramer Report (Exh. 11). Another shot came from above and entered the middle of her cervical spine (i.e., the neck):

2. A path of shrapnel foci delineates a bullet path from the caudodorsal cervical cutaneous surface, coursing cranially and ventrally, and striking the dorsal aspect of the C3 vertebra. No fractures are apparent, and there is a cluster of ricochet fragments to the left of the ventral aspect of this vertebra. There is gas within the vertebral sinuses in the cervical region, contiguous with gas elsewhere within vascular lumina.

Rosie Wright

CT Results

Id. A third shot entered Rosie's left shoulder blade:

3. A bullet path is noted from an entrance point dorsal to the left scapula through the dorsal aspect of the scapular body with resultant local fracture, and a majority of the shrapnel is localized in the tissues between the medial aspect of the scapular body and the thoracic spinous processes. There is an incomplete, longitudinally oriented fracture line in the spinous process of the T1 vertebra.

Id. A fourth shot presumably entered Rosie's right shoulder blade. Dr. Kramer only found a "single small shrapnel fragment" near the cranial portion of her right lung, which had ricocheted off her scapula:

4. A bullet path is noted from an undetermined entrance point presumably dorsal and lateral to the right scapula, and has caused fractures in the ventral aspect of the scapular body with deposition of large shrapnel fragments immediately medial thereto. Numerous additional fragments course ventromedially and slightly cranially and are embedded in the tissues lateral to or ventral to the right side of the thoracic inlet. A single small shrapnel fragment is present in the cranial tip of the right cranial lung lobe medial to the ventral aspect of the right 2nd rib. No other shrapnel is present in the thoracic cavity.

Id. The bullets did not strike Rosie in the abdominal or pelvic regions.

Rosie Wright

DMPD Policy 820.3

820.3 OFFICER RESPONSIBILITY

During hours when the Animal Control Officer is off duty, or if the ACO is otherwise unavailable, the following animal related calls for service will be handled by the appropriate on-duty officer.

Officers dispatched to emergent animal related calls should attempt to take appropriate actions to control and resolve the situation. Due to the hazards of handling animals without proper equipment, responding officers generally should not attempt to capture and pick up any animal. The following are examples of when an officer may consider acting before the arrival of the ACO:

- (a) When there is a threat to the public safety.
- (b) When an animal has bitten a person, officers should take measures to confine the animal and prevent further injury. A Case Report will be taken and the animal impounded and/or quarantined.
- (c) When the owner/keeper has been arrested and there is a need for placement of the animal.
- (d) When the animal is gravely injured.

Rosie Wright

DMPD Police 820.5

820.5 INJURED ANIMALS

When any injured domesticated animal is brought to the attention of a member of this agency, all reasonable attempts shall be made to contact the owner or keeper. When the owner or keeper cannot be located and the animal is not an immediate danger to the community, it may be taken to a doctor of veterinary medicine as described below (RCW 16.52.085(2)):

- (a) During normal business hours, the animal should be taken to an authorized veterinary care clinic or to an animal shelter if a shelter vet is on duty.
- (b) If after normal business hours, the animal should be taken to the department authorized veterinary emergency clinic.
- (c) The only exception to the above is when the animal is an immediate danger to the community or the owner/ keeper of the animal is identified and takes responsibility for the injured animal.
 - 1. When the need to kill a seriously injured or dangerous animal is necessary, the department Use of Force Policy § 304 shall be followed. Destruction of an animal shall be undertaken with reasonable prudence and, whenever possible, in consultation with a licensed veterinarian and the owner/ keeper of the animal (RCW 16.52.21C). The decision to dispose of a seriously injured animal will rest with the on-duty Shift Supervisor.
- (d) Injured wildlife should be referred to the Marine Mammal and Fisheries Department or the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife as applicable.
- (e) When handling dead or injured animals department employees shall attempt to identify and notify the owner/ keeper of the final disposition of the animal.
- (f) Each incident shall be documented and include, at minimum, the name of the reporting party and veterinary hospital and/or person to whom the animal is released. If the ACO is off-duty, the information will be forwarded for follow-up.

Rosie Wright

DMPD Police 304.1.1

304.1.1 POLICY

It is the policy of this department to resort to the use of a firearm, when it reasonably appears to be necessary, and generally:

(c) To stop a dangerous animal.

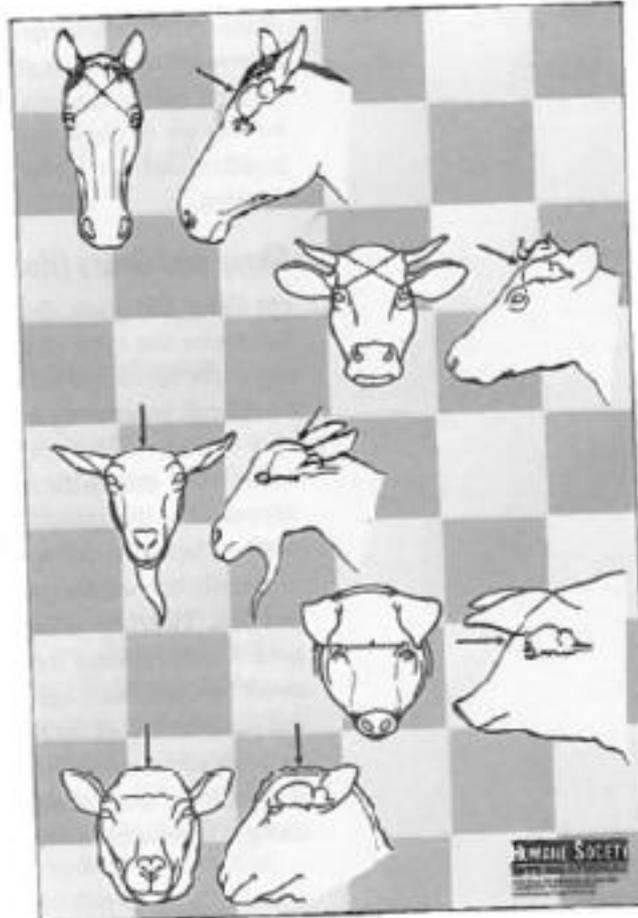
1. In circumstances where officers encounter an unexpected dangerous animal or are surprised by an animal which reasonably appears to pose an imminent threat to the safety of officers or others, officers are authorized to use deadly force to neutralize such a threat.
2. In circumstances in which officers have sufficient advanced notice that a potentially dangerous domestic animal (e.g., dog) may be encountered, such as in the serving of a search warrant, officers should develop reasonable contingency plans for dealing with the animal without the use of deadly force (e.g., fire extinguisher, Taser, OC Spray, animal control officer). Nothing in this policy shall prohibit any officer from resorting to deadly force to control a dangerous animal if circumstances reasonably dictate that a contingency plan has failed or becomes impractical.

(d) An officer may euthanize an animal that is so badly injured that human compassion requires its removal from further suffering and where other dispositions are impractical.

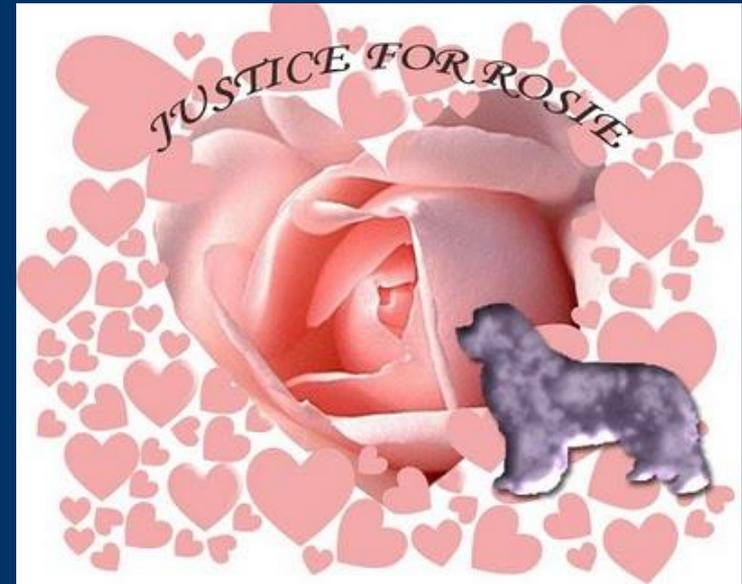
Rosie Wright

Euthanasia by Gunshot

FIG 13.1
Angles and points of entry for correct shot location for horses, cattle, goats, pigs, and sheep.



- ***Wright v. City of Des Moines, et al.* 12-cv-1962 JLR**
 - ┌ Section 1983 claim against Graddon (4th Am.)
 - ┌ Section 1983 claim against Wieland (4th Am.)
 - Acting in concert with, directing, and setting in motion series of acts by subordinate Graddon to shoot and kill Rosie.
 - ┌ Section 1983 claim against City (4th Am.)
 - Defective training.
 - ┌ Conversion and/or Trespass to Chattels
 - ┌ Outrage (later withdrawn)
 - ┌ Malicious Injury to Pet
 - ┌ Negligence
- **Offer of Judgment**
 - ┌ \$51,000 and fees and costs
 - ┌ Accepted Jan. 29, 2013



- **Any legal significance to:**
 - Four shots?
 - Location of shooting?
 - Officer's aim?
 - Leash laws?
 - Violation of police protocols?
- **Result in wake of *San Jose*?**

Contact me with questions!



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