



## Hernando County Sheriff's Office

A STATE ACCREDITED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

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### Media Release

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**From: Sergeant Donna Black**  
**Public Information Officer, 352-797-3609**

**Re: Deputy Chris Erickson-Dog Bite**

**Date: February 9, 2009**

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On Saturday February 7, 2009, at approximately 10:00 a.m., K-9 Deputy Chris Erickson and K-9 Deputy John Gore were getting ready for a K-9 demonstration at the Ridge Manor Community Center.

All of a sudden Deputy John Gore's K-9, named Tracer, lunged at Deputy Erickson, biting Deputy Erickson on the left forearm. As Deputy Erickson dislodged Tracer from his arm, Tracer grabbed and bit him on his right hand and right ring finger.

Deputy Chris Erickson, age 45, was transported by ambulance to St. Joseph Hospital in Tampa to be treated by a hand specialist. He underwent surgery for his injuries and has been released from the hospital. He is at home recovering. Deputy Chris Erickson has been employed with the Hernando County Sheriff's Office since 1985 and been a K-9 handler with our agency since 1990.

Stemming from this incident K-9 Tracer is being retired from the agency. Tracer is a 6 ½ year old Shepherd, and has been on patrol in our K-9 Unit for 3 years. Due to Tracer now becoming retired, he will be remaining at Deputy Gore's residence.

Deputy Gore, age 48, has been employed with the Hernando County Sheriff's Office for 13 years and has been assigned to K-9 Unit for 12 years. It is anticipated that another K-9 will be obtained to replace Tracer and will be handled by Deputy Gore.