



## Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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### Media Release

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**From:** Denise M. Moloney  
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**Re:** Brooksville Woman Bitten in Face by Dog

**Date:** June 19, 2019

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On 06-19-19 just after 1 a.m., Hernando County Sheriff's deputies and Hernando County Fire Rescue were dispatched to 21440 Canal Drive in Brooksville regarding a Dog Bite.

Upon arrival, deputies learned that four adults share the residence. Just prior to the call for service being generated, two of the adults, Justin Norman and Andrea Swartwood, returned home after a night out at a local bar.

The other two individuals who share the residence, Tiffani Evans and Taylor Evans, had recently rescued a 200 pound Bull Mastiff from a male known only as Mike, in Floral City, Florida.

When Norman and Swartwood returned home, the dog suddenly became aggressive and began growling at all four of the residents. Taylor Evans told deputies they have only had the dog for "a week or so," and it had never shown aggression before.

For unknown reasons, Swartwood approached the dog and leaned down in an attempt to kiss the dog on the face. This resulted in the dog biting Swartwood on the face, specifically on her left cheek and lip area.

Norman immediately attempted to intervene and remove the dog from Swartwood's face. At which time Norman was also bitten by the dog, on his left hand.

Once the dog was removed from Swartwood, the residents were able to corral it into a bedroom.

Hernando County Fire Rescue arrived on scene and transported Swartwood to a local hospital. Swartwood was later transferred to a trauma center where her injuries could be addressed by a plastic surgeon.

A Hernando County Sheriff's Animal Enforcement Officer responded to the residence to collect the dog, as the residents were no longer able to care for it. The dog was delivered to Hernando County Animal Services.

The case remains under investigation.

**The Office of Sheriff:**

**The Office of the Sheriff is established by the Florida Constitution. As a constitutional officer, the Sheriff has the exclusive authority to administer his or her agency and is responsible for preserving the peace throughout the entire county, carrying out the laws of the state, the orders of Florida courts, and the ordinances of the Board of County Commissioners. The Sheriff is the chief law enforcement and correctional officer of the county.**

**Sheriff Al Nienhuis was initially appointed as the Sheriff of Hernando County by the Governor in January of 2011. He was then elected by the people of Hernando County in 2012, and remains accountable to them.**