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**LABRADOR SURVIVES WITH ARROW SHOT THROUGH
HIS HEAD; DOCTOR DOUBTS IT WAS ACCIDENT.
(JEFFERSON COUNTY POST)**Article from St Louis Post-Dispatch (MO) | October 20, 2003 | Hathaway, Matthew |
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Byline: Matthew Hathaway Of The Post-Dispatch

Now they call him Lucky Luther, but the 1-year-old black Labrador seemed incredibly ill-fated when he was carried into Crystal City's Jones Animal Health Clinic with an arrow through his head.

The Jefferson County Sheriff's Department says Luther was found in a wooded area near the 4700 block of Hillsboro-Hematite Road by a nearby resident about 7:30 p.m. Oct. 9. Police are investigating the incident but won't say whether they believe the attack was intentional or a hunting accident.

But Dr. Thomas "Butch" Jones, the veterinarian who treated Luther, said, "This was clearly intentional. It would be a pretty far stretch to mistake a black Lab for a deer. You don't hit a dog this way in an accident."

Jones said that every year he treats several pets that have been maimed by hunters, often on purpose. He said that the nature of Luther's wound - the arrow entered the head below the right ear and stuck out a few inches on the opposite side - suggested that a hunter took aim and shot the animal from a close distance.

The vet thinks a hunter probably was annoyed by the dog and thought the animal would scare away deer.

"A lot of hunters take the hunt as seriously as a religion, and anything that gets in their way is going to get blasted to kingdom come," Jones said. "Of course the dog probably ran around in this woods all year round. The hunters were probably there illegally."

Judging from the condition of the wound, Jones estimates that the dog was wounded in the mid-afternoon, probably two or three hours before the resident discovered the animal.

Jones and the vet won't identify the dog's rescuer, who now owns the animal. Jones said that Luther should be a good pet for years to come. The arrow missed hitting the dog's brain or spine, and damage to his throat muscles should go away in time.

Jean Woolery, director of the Jefferson County Humane Society, said pets often are injured in hunting season.

"Unfortunately, we get something along these lines every year," Woolery said. "That's why I tell people to keep their pets inside, or to try to supervise them while they're outside."

Woolery praised the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department for taking the incident seriously.

Sheriff's Capt. Denise Lassing said detectives were investigating the case. She encourages anyone with information about the incident to call the Sheriff's Department's detective bureau at 636-797-5515.