

Patrol Catch of the Quarter
Deputy John Mendham
K-9 Rex
Mason County Sheriff's Office
MASON COUNTY, MI

On 5-27-2009 at approximately 1646 hrs, I was taking a breaking and entering complaint when Sgt. Cole, also of the Mason County Sheriff's Office, called out a vehicle chase. A short time later, Sgt. Cole advised that the suspect vehicle had pulled to the side of the roadway and the driver had fled the scene on foot into a large wooded area.

Approximately 15 minutes later, I arrived on the scene to assist with a canine track.

Upon arrival, Sgt Cole was able to point out a foot track in the wood line where the suspect was last seen. I brought canine Rex into the area and he instantly showed track identification. Canine Rex tracked east through the wooded area and into an open field. He continued to track through the field and again entered a large wooded area. Canine Rex tracked approximately ¼ mile into the second set of woods when we came up to a large swampy area. Canine Rex entered the swampy area and continued tracking east. A short distance into the swamp, I observed the suspect standing on the far side. I made verbal contact with the suspect and advised him that he was under arrest. At this point the suspect turned and fled east for a short distance and then turned back to the north. I exited the swamp and took Canine Rex to the suspect's last seen point.

Once in the area of the last seen point, Canine Rex located the track and continued tracking. He tracked east and then north in the same direction the suspect had fled.

Canine Rex tracked north approximately ¼ mile before turning back to the west. He left the wooded area and entered the backyard of a residence. As Rex was tracking through the subject's yard, the homeowner came out and advised that the suspect had just run through there a short time ago. Canine Rex continued tracking west and then turned back to the south crossing the same open field we had started in. Canine Rex crossed the original track and continued south into a small wooded area. Once in the wooded area Canine Rex turned back to the east and followed the wood line around to a small river. Once at the river Canine Rex turned back to the east along the top of the river bank. Canine Rex tracked up to a small foot bridge and began checking both sides of the bridge.

At this point I pulled Rex back and could see the suspect hiding under the bridge. I advised the suspect that he was under arrest and needed to come out of the water, but he refused. I again advised the suspect that it was the sheriff's office canine unit and he needed to come out or the police dog would be sent in and he could be injured. After the second warning the suspect exited the river; however he exited on the opposite side. As the suspect came up the river bank I again gave him the warning that if he did not give up the canine would be sent and he could be injured. The suspect looked over his shoulder and advised that he had come this far he was not going to give up now. The suspect left the river and began running across a large open field.

At this point canine Rex was deployed on the suspect. Canine Rex ran up to the suspect and bit him on the left forearm knocking him to the ground. Once on the ground, the

suspect began hitting canine Rex on top of the head until he let go. The suspect got back up and again attempted to run. Canine Rex bit the suspect in the upper leg again knocking him to the ground. Once on the ground the suspect began choking and kicking Canine Rex. Canine Rex released and the suspect made one more attempt to run. Canine Rex again engaged the suspect biting him on the upper leg again knocking him to the ground.

At this point my back up officer shot the suspect with a taser after he refused to stop fighting the dog. The suspect was taken into custody and transported to the hospital for treatment. A LEIN check showed the suspect had absconded from parole for a CSC charge and had two felony warrants outstanding. The suspect was also charged with OWI, flee and elude, R&O and assault with the intent to injure a police canine.