

Rains County deputy fired; investigation ongoing

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Friday, 25 April 2014 14:04

Rains County Sheriff David Traylor and County Attorney Robert Vititow confirmed Friday morning that deputy Jarred Dooley has been fired as a result of the shooting of a working dog last week.

In a statement issued this morning, Vititow said the deputy had been relieved of duties.

“There is an investigation going on into the actions of the former deputy,” Vititow said. “When, and if, a criminal case is presented to my office by a law enforcement agency for prosecution, we will treat this case like any other.”

The incident in which Dooley fatally shot a dog belonging to Cole Middleton as the former deputy responded to a burglary call gained national attention after a video of a confrontation between burglary victim Middleton and Dooley was posted on a facebook page dedicated to the Blue Heeler, Candy.

The deputy was placed on administrative leave earlier this week, and, as the case continued to draw attention, steps were taken to relieve Dooley of his duties as a deputy sheriff.

Sheriff Traylor said his officers, his department and Dooley had received a number of telephone threats in the days after the shooting and had reached a point in which he felt all were in danger.

The sheriff also said Dooley's actions had “ruined” his career in the Rains County community and he would not be allowed to work in the sheriff's department again, regardless of the outcome of the investigation.

Just before noon today, a spokeswoman in the Public Information Office of the Texas Department of Public Safety in Austin said she was aware of the Rains County incident but did not confirm there was an internal investigation into the actions of a state trooper from Wood County who had responded to Dooley's call for assistance after shooting Middleton's dog.

In the cell phone video recorded by Middleton, the trooper can be seen mugging the camera and waving.

The dash cam video from Dooley's patrol truck was also released by Rains County. It shows the dog hopping out of the bed of the truck she was in when the patrol vehicle pulled up. Just a few seconds later, the video goes silent, which officials say was because of the loud gun shot.