

## Family distraught over shooting of family dog

**By Mark Pavilons**

A King City family has been devastated by the apparent intentional shooting of their family dog.

Derrick Simonis and his family were wrecks over this horrible tragedy, that occurred some time on Feb. 25. The family lives on a 100-acre farm on Jane Street, near King Hills Lane.

Simonis said he found his five-and-a-half-year-old German shepherd Dutchess behind the barn that afternoon and brought her to the vet where she was put down. She had enough strength to make it home for some last good-byes.

Simonis said she was shot with a .22-calibre firearm, likely a small rifle. He has his suspicions and he confronted a resident who denied it. Simonis said he followed the blood trail.

He met with York Regional Police, who are investigating.

According to York Regional Constable Laura Nicolle, criminal investigators are looking for witnesses in this case of animal cruelty. When officers arrived at the Simonis property Feb. 25 at 4:30 p.m., they determined the dog was shot after it wandered off the owner's property.

York Regional Police are working with the Ontario SPCA on this ongoing investigation. They're asking any witnesses or anyone with information to contact them at 1-866-876-5423, ext. 7141 or call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.