

Woman in stable condition after attack by neighbor's dog

By Jaxon Van Derbeken
Daily News Staff Writer

MISSION HILLS — A 69-year-old woman was attacked and mauled by a neighbor's Rottweiler on Wednesday before a passing motorist clubbed the animal and a police officer shot and killed it.

Evangeline Simons was in stable condition at Holy Cross Medical Center. Simons was treated for bites to her head and body following the 8:50 a.m. attack by the dog she encountered while walking in the neighborhood.

Simons was going to alert her neighbor about the black-and-brown dog named "Kodiak" being free when it charged her and knocked her to the ground.

One motorist drove up onto the yard on Arleta Avenue in attempt to run the dog down. Another passer-by attempted to club the dog.

"It had her by the neck and it

was just shaking her," Joe Linares, a passer-by who stopped to help, told the Associated Press. "She was full of blood."

Linares and his wife, Elizabeth, maneuvered their car between the dog and Simons. Linares then tried to fight the dog off by striking it repeatedly with his car's steering wheel anti-theft bar.

Officers arrived and ordered people away and into their cars and homes. Officers twice sprayed the dog with pepper spray before one officer fired three times at the dog as it was preparing to charge her, said LAPD Sgt. Pete Weinhold.

"The dog was on its back legs. The officer actually waited until the last minute," Weinhold said.

The dog's owner, Albert Gallegos, apologized for the attack and said he did not know why his 4-year-old dog charged and bit his neighbor. "I feel sorry for my neighbor, you know. It's sad," he said. "I don't know why he did that. He knew the lady."