

Heroic dog saves owner from explosion

■ Milford woman escapes home moments before blast after Kisses woke her, led her through fire.

BY ORALANDAR BRAND-WILLIAMS
The Detroit News

A 3-year-old dog is being credited with saving her owner's life Tuesday morning when her barks alerted the sleeping woman moments before her Milford home exploded.

Elaine Fisher was in her bedroom in the 600 block of Elizabeth Street around 7:48 a.m. when her dog, Kisses, began barking loudly,

she said.

"She kept howling," said Fisher in an interview with WXYZ-TV Channel 7.

"I held on to her tail and we went through the fire."

Fisher's husband had already left for work, Channel 7 said.

MichCon crews were investigating if a gas line rupture caused the blast or if the explosion caused the rupture, Milford police said. The Milford Fire Department was also investigating.

Fisher was the only one home at the time. She did not appear to suffer any serious injuries from the blast. She has sought lodging at an undisclosed location.

Kisses, who was injured, ran from the scene and was later rescued by strangers.

The 65-pound black and brown German shepherd mix was taken to Veterinary Care Specialists animal hospital in Milford, where she was treated for burns to her paws, coat and underbelly. She could be released late today, said veterinarian Dr. Julie Hass at Veterinary Care Specialists.

The dog's actions were no surprise to the staff at the veterinary hospital.

"I think animals are very instinctive," Hass said. "They are very intuitive and far more incredible than we give them credit for.

Their sense of devotion is exceptional."

The force of the explosion blew the north and south walls off of the two-story house. The fire from the explosion was under control within 20 minutes, but Fisher's home was leveled.

Like Kisses' owner, local fire and police officials praised the animal's quick actions.

"The dog is a hero for sure," said Milford Fire Chief Lawrence Waligora. "The dog definitely got the homeowner out of the house."

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