

# Contra Costa Times

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## **INJURED CANINE GETS A SECOND CHANCE AT LIFE FOUND NEAR DEATH, THE UNLUCKY CANINE'S BODY WAS RIDDLED WITH BUCKSHOT, INFECTION**

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Every dog has his day. In Bucky's case, it was a very, very bad day.

A young German shepherd mix, Bucky was bleeding and near death when he crawled onto a Livermore horse farm on Cross Road late last month. Dehydrated, his body was riddled with buckshot. He was in shock from blood loss and severe infection. The bone of his right rear leg was shattered, part of it blown out by the buckshot.

"In Bucky's case, his injuries were so extensive that he could easily have been put down for humane reasons. However, we chose to give him a second chance," said Joanne Peterson, president of the Tri-Valley Animal Rescue Fund.

Bucky's second chance is largely thanks to a "Cinderella Fund" to provide care for homeless animals, said Tracy Quartaroli, spokeswoman for TVAR, which is picking up the \$1,000 tab for Bucky's medical care, she said.

On Jan. 30, a Good Samaritan at the horse ranch saw Bucky, and called animal control. An officer took

Bucky to an emergency veterinary clinic to be stabilized before being transferred to the East County Animal Shelter in Dublin.

At the shelter, Bucky needed around-the-clock care and pain medication. His injured leg needed to be amputated, something the shelter could not offer.

Bucky -- so named by rescuers for obvious reasons -- was released to Tri-Valley Animal Rescue, an all-volunteer organization that rescues, rehabilitates and fosters homeless animals. He was later moved to the Bishop Ranch Veterinary Clinic in San Ramon for treatment.

His badly injured right rear leg was amputated on Thursday, said veterinarian James Pogrel.

Veterinarian Frank Utchen said Bucky is a canine trouper, who is recovering well.

"To see an animal injured this badly is unusual," Utchen said. "He's had the triple whammy."

When Bucky arrived at the clinic for treatment, he was lethargic, lame in his front left leg from more buckshot and very ill from the bacterial infections resulting from his wounds.

"He had a shoulder full of holes like he had been riddled with a machine gun," Utchen said.

No one had come forward as of Monday to claim the dog. It was also not known where or how Bucky was shot.

"Either someone suspected he was a coyote, or decided to use him for target practice," Utchen said.

By Monday, Bucky was eating well and is expected to go to a foster family today to continue his care before he can be adopted.

Peterson said that before an animal is euthanized at the county shelter, foster care is explored. Such caregiving arrangements are made through the Animal Rescue group.

"He seems to be tolerant of his own misfortune," Utchen said. "He is a very sweet dog. He licks your hand. Three-legged dogs do extremely well."

For information about Tri-Valley Animal Rescue or to donate, visit [www.tvar.org](http://www.tvar.org).

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Caption:  
PHOTO: THE SCARS from a shotgun blast can be seen on Bucky's front left leg Monday at the Bishop

Ranch Veterinary Clinic in San Ramon. Bucky's right rear leg was amputated Thursday. The dog was found near death on a Livermore horse farm, his body was in shock from blood loss and severe infection caused by the extensive buckshot injuries. (KRISTOPHER SKINNER/TIMES)

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