K-9 Bitten by Rattlesnake

At about 12:20 PM this afternoon one of our K9 units of was attempting to track a suspect possible involved in a burglary in the vicinity of the Inlet Bay apartments at 119 Ave North and 4th Street. The K9 and his handler had entered a wooded area near the apartment complex when the dog was bitten by a rattlesnake. The rattlesnake was shot by the handler and the K9 has been taken to a local veterinarian clinic for treatment.

The K-9 involved in this afternoon's snake bite incident is "Ajax" (photo attached) and his handler is Officer Joseph Lehmann. Ajax was taken to the Partridge Animal Hospital at 6920 4th Street North where he was treated with anti-venom and his condition is still being evaluated.

The suspect that Ajax was tracking was not apprehended and remains at large. He was described as a W/M, in his 40's last seen wearing a white t-shirt and blue jeans.

Detectives were in the area when they observed the suspect acting suspiciously. When they approached to question him he fled north bound out of the complex. Officer Lehmann and Ajax responded to track the subject when the snake bite.
Police located the man, Jack Dion, hiding in his apartment at a nearby complex at 501 116th Ave. North, a short time ago. Dion admitted he ran from police earlier in the day. He was arrested for a misdemeanor of loitering and prowling.