


Timeline - Criminal Trial of Alex Geiger

- 2012 to 2013 - July to July. Geiger serves as a provisional deputy with the Kings County Sheriff's Office (where he is seen in photo doing a K-9 bite work demo).
- 2014 - August. Geiger joins the Exeter Police Department as a provisional officer.
 - August - September. Jay Brock, the operator of Top Dog Training Center, purchases Neo from a seller, whose name Brock did not know, "paid in cash, and didn't ask for a receipt for the transaction." - *Preliminary hearing testimony*
- 2015 - July. Geiger becomes a full-time officer with the Exeter Police Department.
- 2015 - September. Geiger becomes a K-9 handler with the Exeter Police Department. This same month, the city of Exeter acquires police K-9 "Neo" (1.5 years old).
- 2015 - November to December. K-9 Neo becomes "dual certified" in narcotics detection and patrol work (bite work) and begins his K-9 policing career.
 - This is a combined training effort by David Brock and Exeter PD.
- 2016 - March. K-9 Neo inflicts a bite during a routine bite-work training session. The bite injury is minor and the animal remains part of the Exeter K-9 unit.
- 2016 - August. Geiger pays Exeter \$5,287 to keep his dual-certified K-9 and departs the Exeter Police Department. He signs a waiver freeing Exeter of all liability if the dog attacks under his "private" ownership & acknowledges inherent dangerousness of Neo.
- 2016 - September. Alex Geiger, 25-years old, is hired by the city of Grover Beach as a police officer. The Grover Beach Police Department does not have a K-9 unit.
- 2016 - September. Officer Geiger moves into a "rented" home on Owens Court in Grover Beach, one block from the scene of the deadly attack in December.
- 2016 - October 3. Officer Geiger is officially sworn in at a city council meeting.
- 2016 - November. Officer Geiger unsuccessfully lobbies Grover Beach police Chief John Peters to start a K-9 unit, submitting a 140-page guide on how to form a K-9 unit.
- 2016 - December 13. Around noon, Geiger's dogs chew through his wooden fence and menace a mailman. "One of the dogs seemed particularly aggressive and was jumping on his truck as if trying to get at him," states the animal control report.
 - Earlier that morning, Geiger temporarily fixed a known hole in his fence. - *Preliminary hearing testimony*
- 2016 - December 13. Around 1:15 pm, Geiger's loose dogs (Neo, the primary attacker, and a German shepherd) viciously attack David Fear and Betty Long.
 - Sgt. Juan Leon -- Geiger's supervisor and the first officer on the scene of the attack -- fails to collect and preserve evidence, including blood sample's from Geiger's hands, his own bloody uniform, an air rifle and "garden tool", turns off his body cam and his in-car recording device is not functional. He also allows Geiger to take the dogs to his home "alone." - *Preliminary hearing testimony*

- Sgt. Juan Leon also fails to “closely” examine the gaping hole in Geiger’s fence and does not enter the backyard at all where Geiger secured the dogs. - *Preliminary hearing testimony*
- Geiger, who is on duty, arrives at the scene one minute later. He’s investigating his own dog’s fatal attack on a person. - *Preliminary hearing testimony*
- Grover Beach PD immediately vacates case and dumps it into the hands of San Luis Obispo County Animal Services. - *Preliminary hearing testimony*
- By the “afternoon” of Dec. 13, Neo had been euthanized, rabies tested (head removed, brain tested) and cremated. No body examination was performed.
- 2016 - December 15. Animal Services Director Eric Anderson issues news release stating Geiger’s dogs are not connected to the Grover Beach Police Department.
- 2016 - December 16. David Fear dies of his severe injuries while hospitalized at Sierra Vista Regional Medical Center. Betty Long remains hospitalized.
- 2016 - December 19. Officer Geiger is placed on paid administrative leave.
- 2016 - December 22. City of Grover finally releases the name of dogs’ owner, officer Geiger, to the public. The city does not provide information on the dog’s training.
- 2017 - January 4. *The Tribune* publishes an exclusive article, detailing Geiger’s previous employment, and showing that his dog is an attack-trained police K-9.
- 2017 - February 1. Geiger resigns from the Grover Beach Police Department.
- 2017 - February 2. The San Luis Obispo County District Attorney’s Office files two felony charges against former Grover Beach police officer Alex Paul Geiger.
- 2017 - March 1. On or about this day Betty Long is released from the rehabilitation center. On March 3, she gives an exclusive interview with *The Tribune*.
- 2017 - June 13. The district attorney’s office amends its case against Geiger to include a single felony count of involuntary manslaughter for the death of David Fear.
- 2017 - July 18. The preliminary hearing for former officer Alex Geiger resumes.
 - Defense raises issues of evidence that was not collected and preserved by Grover Beach PD, Alex Geiger’s employer, at the time of the attack.
 - Defense raises possibility that Fear brandished a weapon before the “sudden” vicious attack, causing the police K-9 to attack.
- 2017 - July 19. Judge rules the case can proceed to trial.
 - “Retired” police dogs and “lack of standard procedures” is the defense’s general argument. “No one knows what to do” and neither did Geiger.
 - Judge says, “Maybe police departments should do something about it” (the lack of standard protocols for retired police dogs).
 - Judge says, “There is an inherent danger (with keeping retired police dogs), and I think Officer Geiger knew that.”
 - Prosecutors argue that Geiger knew of the dangerous propensities of Neo, that he had a 5-sided secure kennel in his backyard, but did not secure the dog in it.
 - Multiple police officers/K-9 trainers testify that Geiger was trained to always keep active police K-9s in a locked, secure kennel when handler not present.

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- Prosecution closing arguments included that Geiger was “thumbing his nose at the danger” with keeping Neo loose in the backyard, outside of the kennel.